

Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) on school appeals

As a result of the current coronavirus (Covid 19) outbreak it is not possible or appropriate to comply with all the requirements of the School Admission Appeals Code (the Appeals Code) and the School Admissions (Appeals Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 (the 2012 regulations).

Emergency regulations which temporarily amend the 2012 regulations were made in April 2020 and allowed admission authorities, local authorities and appeal panels some additional flexibility when dealing with appeals during the outbreak. The regulations were called the School Admissions (England) (Coronavirus) (Appeals Arrangements) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (the 2020 regulations) and were due to remain in force until 31 January 2021.

The temporary regulations have now been extended and will be in place until 30 September 2021. The new regulations are called The School Admissions (England) (Coronavirus) (Appeals Arrangements) (Amendment) Regulations 2021.

The guidance below takes into account the new regulations and the new temporary procedure relating to school admission appeal hearings.

APPEALS TIMETABLE FOR ADMISSION TO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN SEPTEMBER 2021

Secondary school appeals timetable

- Allocation letters sent to parents - 1 March 2021
- Deadline for parents to submit appeal – 12 April 2021
- All parents will be given at least 14 days written notice where an appeal hearing is to be held remotely by telephone or video link. Otherwise appeals will be heard as soon as is reasonably possible and parents will be provided with a timetable for submitting written information. Where possible appeals will be heard by Tuesday, 15 June 2021.
- Decision letters will be sent within 7 days of the determination by the panel of an appeal.

Late applications appeals will be heard as soon as reasonably practicable.

Primary school appeals timetable

- Allocation letters sent to parents – 16 April 2021
- Deadline for parents to submit appeal – 17 May 2021
- All parents will be given at least 14 days written notice where an appeal hearing is to be held remotely by telephone or video link. Otherwise appeals will be heard as soon as is reasonably possible and parents will be provided with a timetable for submitting written information. Where possible appeals will be heard by Monday, 19 July 2021
- Decision letters will be sent within 7 days of the determination by the panel of an appeal.

Late applications appeals will be heard as soon as reasonably practicable.

Appeals made during the academic year (in-year) will be heard as soon as reasonably practicable. The last appeal date in the summer term will be week beginning 19 July 2021