

Appeals

You can appeal at a school where you have applied and been refused admission.

If you plan to appeal, read the advice carefully. You can only appeal against the refusal of a place at a school that is currently one of your live preferences.

Appeals are heard and decided by panels that are independent of the council and the school(s) you may appeal for.

It is important you understand that the circumstances in which an appeal panel may uphold an infant class size appeal (reception class, year 1 or year 2 only) are extremely limited.

For an appeal to be successful, an appeal panel must be satisfied that:

- the admission of additional children would not breach the infant class size limit
- the child would have been offered a place if the published admission arrangements had been properly implemented
- the child would have been offered a place if the arrangements had not been contrary to mandatory provisions in the School Admissions Code and the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, and/or
- the decision to refuse admission was not one that a reasonable admission authority would have made in the circumstances of the case

Appeals are generally only successful if you or your child have exceptional reasons for needing admission to a particular school.

There are no guarantees that any appeal will be successful. Below you can find a table of the number of heard and successful appeals administered by the council over the last 3 years.

Percentage of successful appeals from 2021 to 2023		
School year	Number of appeals heard	Percentage of successful appeals
Reception intake 2021	111	0.9%
Reception intake 2022	91	0%
Reception intake 2023	89	0.9%

If you want to appeal, the closing date for submitting your written appeal is Monday 2 June 2025.

If you submit an appeal after this date, it will be classed as a late appeal and will be heard after the on-time appeals, and it may not be heard before the beginning of September 2025.

You will be able to [access the appeal form online from 9:00am on 16 April 2025](#)

Timetable for the primary school admissions process for 2024 to 2025

Stage of process	Date
Application period starts	1 October 2024
Closing date for applications	15 January 2025
National Offer Day	16 April 2025
Deadline for submitting appeals	2 June 2025
Appeal hearings for appeals submitted on time	25 July 2025
Round closes (applications need to be made using in-year application directly to the school)	31 July 2025
