

Timetable for the primary school admissions process for 2023 to 2024

Stage of process	Date
Application period starts	1 October 2023
Closing date for applications	15 January 2024
National Offer Day	16 April 2024
Deadline for submitting appeals	12 May 2024
Appeal hearings for appeals submitted on time	17 July 2024
Round closes (applications need to be made using in-year application directly to the school)	31 July 2024

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 2020 to 2022	Number of appeals heard	Percentage of successful appeals
School year		
Reception intake 2020	187	1.6%
Reception intake 2021	111	0.9%
Reception intake 2022	91	0%

If you want to appeal, the closing date for submitting your written appeal is Sunday 12 May 2024.

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 2023.

You will be able to [access the appeal form online from 9:00am on 16 April 2024](#).