

LOCAL CODE OF PRACTICE FOR ADMISSIONS AUTHORITIES AND SCHOOLS CONCERNING CONTACTS WITH PARENTS ON PUPIL ADMISSIONS AND TRANSFERS

LEA Responsibilities

1. The Council will publish the “Information for Parents” handbook following consultation with schools and approval by the admissions forum, and that document will form the basis of the information given to parents.
2. The Council will not comment on the performance of one school compared to another, nor advise parents on particular actions to obtain a place at their preferred school. Parents requesting information about pupil performance in examinations results will be given the DfES performance table phone number (freephone) and will be expected to draw their own conclusions.
3. Advice given to parents following the publication of the handbook will be limited to clarification of information within the handbook, with the exception that if parents request it, the numbers of children living in catchment areas of particular schools will be provided if possible (some research may be needed in some cases).
4. All parents and schools will be treated equally, and with courtesy at all times.
5. The Pupil Admissions Office will advise schools of the number of applications received for their school as soon as possible after the closing date(s).
6. Parents will be informed of the outcome of their application on 1st March each year for transfer from primary to secondary applications, and by the end of April each year for Year R applications. No information or comment about the prospects of a successful application will be given prior to those dates.
7. Following the announcement of decisions, the Council will advise parents of their right to use the appeals procedure, giving a date (normally within 2 weeks) by which the decision to appeal must be made and notified to the Pupil Admissions Office.
8. Appeals will be heard within 30 days of the date indicated for parental reply (see paragraph 6 above).
9. Parents will not be informed of their place on any waiting list until after the appeals for that school has taken place.

School Responsibilities

1. All parents should be given the same basic information, i.e. that applications are dealt with by the Pupil Admissions Office and that appeals are possible if places have to be refused when the year group is full.
2. All parents should be treated equally, whether they are in-catchment, out-catchment, or out-county and regardless of their own or their children’s circumstances, unless the children have been excluded from two schools.

3. Parents and children must not be interviewed individually before enrolment has occurred - it is of course in order to give parents making inquiries written information about the school, tell them about how the school operates and what it expects of parents and children, and show them around the premises.
4. Children must not be tested or assessed by the school before enrolment.
5. The school should not comment to any parent on their chances of being successful – parents should simply be referred to the Pupil Admissions Office for the latest information.
6. Parents must not be told anything about the position relating to other applicants or children who might be leaving.
7. Parents must not be given the names or other personal details of other applicants.
8. Individual parents should not be supported by the school at appeal, or briefed to help them with their appeals.