

July 2016

## School Admission Appeals

### What is it?

Parents have a statutory right under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (S86) to apply for a place at a school of their choice. Admission authorities for maintained schools and academies must consider the application but can refuse admission if admitting would have a negative impact on the education and resources at the school. This is usually when the year group is full. School Admission Appeals provide the opportunity for parents to challenge the decision of an admission authority through a judicial process following an unsuccessful application for a place at a school of their choice.

### Why are we doing it?

This is a legal requirement under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (s94). The Local Authority has an admission authority role for community and voluntary controlled (maintained) schools and is required under the law to make the necessary arrangements for parents (and in some cases children) that request it, to challenge their decision to refuse admission through the appeals judicial process. Admission authorities for other maintained (voluntary aided and foundation) schools (governing bodies) and academies (academy trusts) must make the same arrangements.

### When is it happening?

It happens following an unsuccessful application for a school place in a maintained school or academy and for any year group, including sixth form.

### Where is it happening?

Admission authorities are required under the law to take all reasonable steps to ensure the venue is accessible to appellants. The Local Authority's Education Department and some Academy Trusts commission Democratic Services to arrange hearings in various venues across Cheshire East Borough based on the residency of the appellants, for example, Macclesfield Town Hall, Crewe Municipal, Delamere House and Westfields, Sandbach.

### Who are the key players?

Admission Authorities (Local Authority, Governing Bodies, Academy Trusts)  
Presenting officers representing the admission authorities.  
Independent appeal panels  
Parents and, in some cases, children.  
Legal Services

# One Minute Guide

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