

Coronavirus (COVID-19): arrangements for School Admission Appeals

Due to Coronavirus (Covid-19), the Department for Education has extended the temporary regulations in place to make School Admission Appeals more flexible until 30 September 2021. The key changes are:

- where face-to-face hearings cannot take place, hearings should be conducted by telephone or video conference
- if telephone or video conference is not possible, appeals can be carried out in writing
- appeals lodged as part of the main admissions round should be determined before the start of the September term, wherever possible

The changes mean:

- admission authorities will have sufficient time to deal with the annual peak in appeals for children due to start new schools at the beginning of September 2021
- parents will continue to have the right to appeal to any school which has refused their child a place

Summary of changes

The new regulations:

- disapply the requirement that appeals panels must be held in person and instead give flexibility for panel hearings to take place either in person, by telephone, video conference or through a paper-based appeal where all parties can make representations in writing
- relax the rules with regard to what happens if one of the 3 panel members withdraws (temporarily or permanently) to make it permissible for the panel to continue with and conclude the appeal as a panel of 2
- amend the deadlines relating to appeals for the time that the new regulations are in force

Further information for Parents

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/admission-appeals-for-school-places/advice-for-parents-and-guardians-on-school-admission-appeals>

Admissions timetable

Appeals will not start being heard until after the relevant closing date has passed. Appeals lodged after these dates will be heard within 40 school days of the appeal deadline or 30 school days of being lodged, whichever is the later date.

Further details on how to be appeal and the timescales can be found at:

Northamptonshire - <https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/schools-and-education/school-admissions/school-appeals/pages/how-to-appeal.aspx>