

# Appeals guidance

The appeal panel will consider the reasons for your preference, and individual circumstances relating to your application. You may wish to write a further letter to the appeal panel in advance of your appeal. Any additional correspondence should be sent to School Admissions as soon as possible. The deadline to submit your written grounds of appeal to School Admissions is 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

You will be given not less than 10 school days' notice of the date, time and place of the hearing at which you can be present and speak. You can, if you wish, be accompanied by a friend who may speak for you and represent your views to the appeal panel. Parents for whom English is not the first language may wish to arrange for an interpreter to be present. You are encouraged to attend the appeal panel meeting. If you prefer not to attend the panel will consider the case based on your written submission(s). Alternatively, a friend or representative may present the appeal on your behalf.

You may wish to write down in advance what you wish to say to the panel and use your own notes to speak from on the day. It is important that you don't think afterwards of something you forgot to say, or wish you had said, as the panel must not accept additional information after the appeal has been heard.

You will need to demonstrate that your child's need for a place at the school outweighs the Admission Authority's reasons for refusing a place. You should consider how that school will meet your child's individual needs. What will your child gain from attending your preferred school that they will not get from attending any other school?

Once you have received the date and time of your appeal hearing, please submit additional correspondence supporting your appeal to the Clerk to the independent appeals panel as a matter of urgency.

You can attend an appeal hearing virtually over zoom, or in person at City Hall, College Green, Bristol. If you are attending at City Hall when you arrive for your appeal, you will be directed to a waiting area. The Clerk to the Independent School Appeals Panel will explain the procedure of the appeal hearing before the appeal begins. The sequence of events is likely to be:

## **School's case:**

- Presentation of the school's case by the representative of the Admission Authority
- Questioning by the parent/carer(s) and the Appeal Panel
- Summing-up by the representative of the Admission Authority

## **Parent/carer's case:**

- Presentation of the case by the parent/carer
- Questioning by the Appeal Panel/representative of the Admission Authority
- Summing-up by the parent/carer

If more than one family are appealing for the same school on the same day all parents/carers are invited to the same School's case hearing. The parent/carer's case will be held in private and will be confidential. It should not be necessary for a child to attend, or for there to be witnesses, other than a friend or interpreter mentioned previously.

The appeal panel will ask all parties to withdraw while considering a decision. The decision of the appeal panel will be sent to you in writing by the Clerk to the School Appeals Panel. The decisions of appeal panels are binding upon the parent and the Admission Authority, but parents have statutory rights under other legislation should they wish the matter to be investigated further.

### **Useful links**

Department for Education (DfE) Link to [School Admissions Code](#)

Advisory Centre for Education provides online leaflets and guidance for parents:

E-mail: [Link to ACE email address](#) Website: [Link to ACE website](#)