



Exeter Diocesan Board of Education (EDBE)

Admission and Appeal Guidance for own admission authorities – Voluntary Aided and Foundation schools and Academies

The majority of Church of England Schools were established in the 19th Century to provide education for ‘the poor of the Parish’ and to offer a distinctively Christian education to all those who desire it, and being inclusive of those of all faiths and of none.

The governing body is the admissions authority for VA and foundation schools and the academy trust for academies. There is a statutory duty to act in accordance with the relevant provisions of the School Admissions Code and the School Admissions Appeals Code when setting admission arrangements and it is the responsibility of the admission authority to ensure compliance with the codes.

Objections to admission arrangements can be made to the Schools Adjudicator whose decisions are binding on the admission authority and it will be up to that authority to implement those decisions.

Admission arrangements must be fair, clear and objective and easy for parents to understand. All admission authorities must consult for at least 6 weeks between October 1st and January 31st if there are any changes to the admission arrangements. When there are no changes it is only necessary to consult once every 7 years.

Regardless of any changes all admission authorities must determine their admission arrangements by 28th February each year and notify the Local Authority by 15th March each year. The arrangements will also need to be published onto the schools and academy trust website following determination along with all arrangements relevant to the school year in which offers of places are made.

The EDBE recommends that admission authorities must consider the admissions arrangements on an annual basis at the start of the new academic year. This includes agreeing on the published admission number (PAN) for the school. There is no requirement to consult on an increase in PAN but the Local Authority must be notified. However, there must be consultation if there is a proposed decrease in PAN.

The admission authority must consult in the first instance and on an annual basis with the EDBE on all admissions arrangements including supplementary information forms. All admissions arrangements are required to be sent by 1st October each year to allow sufficient time for responses to be sent before a wider statutory consultation.

Training for admissions and appeals is offered throughout the year. We recommend that all governors involved in admissions attend training. Please contact the EDBE to discuss bespoke training which we can deliver to your school. A model policy and supplementary information form is available on request.

https://www.gov.uk/government/.../School_Admissions_Code_2014

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-admissions-appeals-code>

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