

Appeals

If you are not happy with the school we have offered you, you may appeal. It is strongly recommended that you accept the school that has been offered to you even if you decide to appeal for your preferred school. By accepting the school offered, you will guarantee a school place for your child. If you refuse the place, you are very likely to be further reducing the options which may be available to you. ***Accepting the place will have absolutely no bearing on the outcome of your appeal.***

The following procedure applies to appeals for Sandwell Community and Controlled schools only. If you wish to appeal for a place in any other school you should contact the appropriate school directly.

Appeals Panels for Voluntary Aided, Trust schools and Academies are convened by the Governing Body but are conducted in the same way, and to the same rules as those convened by the LA. For some schools Governing Bodies have contracted the appeals function to the LA. If you wish to appeal against a decision not to admit your child to a Community or Controlled secondary school please complete the appeal form enclosed with your letter of refusal. If you are unhappy with the school you have been allocated (even if it was your first preference) and wish to appeal, please contact the Admission and Appeals Service for an appeal form.

The Independent Appeals Panel

The Appeals Panel is independent of the Local Authority (LA) and individual schools. The Panel to consider appeals for Community and Controlled schools is arranged by Democratic Services of the Council. The Panel will consist of 3 or 5 members. You will be invited to attend to say why you would like your child to go to a particular school rather than the one offered. There will also be someone representing the Local Authority and a clerk from Democratic Services in attendance. At the meeting the LA officer will explain why a place at the preferred school has been refused. You will then be invited to explain why you think a place should be given.

The decision of the Panel is binding on parents, the LA and schools. The Council, Councillors and even Members of Parliament are unable to change its decision.

It is not the LA's policy to consider repeat appeals in the same academic year unless there has been a significant material change in circumstances. Before making the decision to make an appeal, you may wish to contact ACE (Advisory Centre for Education), who will provide you with free and impartial advice. You may contact ACE on 0808 800 5793.