



Department
for Education



Admission appeals for maintained and academy primary and secondary schools in England: 2014 to 2015

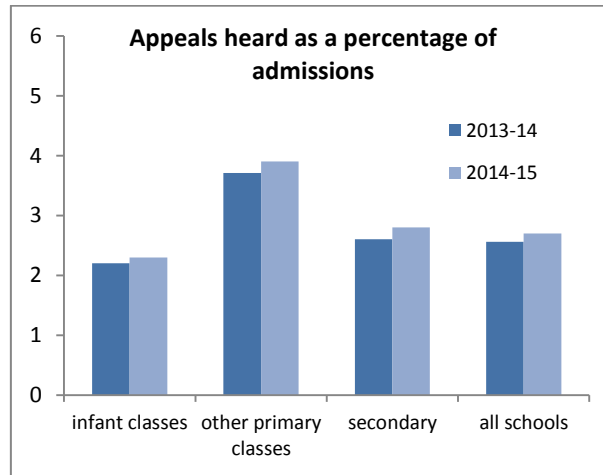
About this release

This statistical first release (SFR) provides information about admissions appeals. Appeals can be made when an applicant has not received an offer of a place into any of their requested primary or secondary schools. The release reports on appeals relating to admissions at the start of the 2014 to 2015 academic year. It is based on appeals lodged with the appropriate admissions authority by 1 September 2014.

The publication details, by school phase, the number and percentage of appeals lodged and the number which are heard by an appeals panel. Of those heard, the number and percentage which are found in the parent's favour (ie upheld) is also given.

The data is additionally broken down by school type (community and voluntary controlled, voluntary aided, foundation and academy) and, separately, by local authority

Slightly higher proportion of appeals heard



Applicants can lodge appeals for any school they have not been awarded a place in, but not all such appeals reach the stage of being heard by an appeals panel. The heard rate is therefore a better measure of the general appeal rate.

In 2014-15 the percentage of appeals heard was 2.7% of all new admissions. The highest proportion was for other primary classes where 3.9% were heard, and the lowest for infant classes (2.3%).

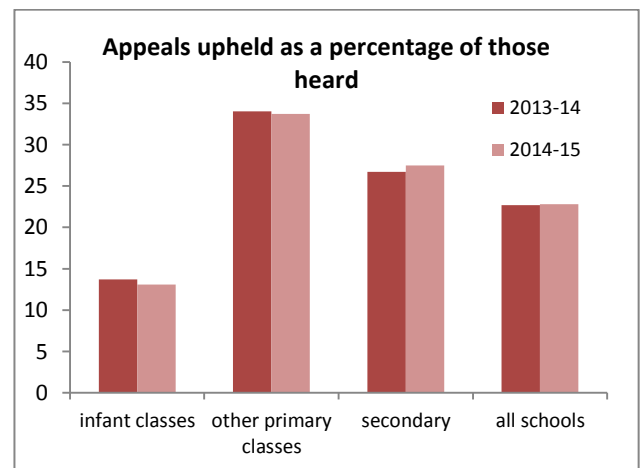
The proportion of appeals heard rose by 0.1 percentage points for all school phases compared to 2013-14.

Proportions of appeals fell slightly for infant and other primary but rose slightly for secondary

Other primary classes saw the highest proportion of heard appeals being upheld, at 33.7%. Infant class appeals upheld were much lower at 13.1%.

For both infant and other primary classes the figures were a slight drop on 2013-14 (13.7% for infant and 34.0% for other primary). At secondary level, however, slightly more appeals (27.5%) were upheld than in 2013-14 (26.7%).

The actual number of appeals upheld rose for 2014-15 for all school levels.



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In this publication

The following tables and documentation are included in the SFR:

- Main national and local authority tables (Excel .xls)
- Underlying data (open format.csv and metadata.docx)
- Background and Methodology document (word.docx).

Feedback

We are changing how our releases look and welcome feedback on any aspect of this document at school.preference@education.gsi.gov.uk.

1. Headline figures

Table A: Admissions appeals, all maintained and academy schools, 2014-15

Admissions	1,481,704
Admission appeals lodged by parents	
Number	54,600
Percentage of admissions	3.7
Appeals heard by an appeals panel	
Number	40,014
Percentage of admissions	2.7
Appeals decided in parents' favour	
Number	9,124
Percentage of appeals heard	22.8

Slight increase in appeal rates

The overall rate of appeals lodged was 3.7% of new admissions. However, not all lodged appeals are heard as an appeal can be withdrawn (for example because the child has been offered a place at the school via the waiting list). The rate of appeals which reached the stage of being heard by the appropriate authority was 2.7%, an increase of 0.1 percentage points on last year (table 1). The actual number of appeals lodged and heard rose by a higher margin (from 50,553 to 54,600 lodged and from 36,967 to 40,014 heard), but against an increase in the number of admissions.

Virtually unchanged percentage of appeals upheld

As could be expected against an increase in the number of appeals heard, there was an increase in the actual number of appeals decided in the parents' favour. The percentage found in favour, however, was virtually unchanged at 22.8% of appeals heard (compared to 22.7% in 2014)

Difference in breakdown by school type

Combined figures for community & voluntary controlled schools are provided by local authorities as overall totals. For all schools they had the highest percentage of appeals heard (3.0% of admissions) but the lowest percentage that were upheld (19.8% of those heard). The highest percentage found in favour of the applicant was voluntary aided schools with 27.9% (table 2).

2. Primary results

Different figures for infant and other primary classes

At primary level the rate of appeals heard was 3.8% of new admissions, with 2.6% heard by an appeals panel.

The primary level data is further split into infant (reception and years one and two) and other primary classes. For the infant classes, the rate of appeals lodged was 3.3% of admissions into those years, with 2.3% then heard by an appeals panel. For the other primary classes the figures were higher at 5.6% and 3.9% respectively. In all cases, including the primary total, the figures were slight increases on those for 2013-14

Fall in the percentage of appeals upheld	Although the number of appeals which were upheld very slightly increased for both infant and other primary classes, the increase in the number heard meant that the percentage found in favour of the applicant dropped to 13.1% (infant) and 33.7% (other primary appeals).
Variation seen by school type	<p>At primary level there is wide variation in the appeal rates by school type. For other primary classes the rate of appeals heard varies from 2.5% (foundation schools) to 7.3% (voluntary aided). The variation in appeals upheld ranges from 20.0% (academies) to 38.3% (community and voluntary controlled).</p> <p>For infant class appeals, community and voluntary controlled schools show the highest number of appeals heard (2.8%) but the lowest percentage upheld (11.5% of appeals heard). Voluntary aided schools had 20.3% of their heard appeals upheld.</p>
Wide range of LA level rates of appeals upheld	<p>Again there is wide variation in the rate of appeals heard and, particularly, upheld at LA level for both infant and other primary classes. Regulations which require infant classes (reception and years 1 and 2) to be limited to 30 children can reduce the possibilities for appeal for these ages. Indeed 17 local authorities upheld none of their infant appeals. However, eight local authorities upheld over a third of the infant appeals they heard.</p> <p>Infant class appeals frequently make up the bulk of the overall primary appeal totals, so the latter is strongly influenced by the former.</p>

3. Secondary results

Increase in percentage upheld	Of the secondary appeals heard, 27.5% were upheld, or found in favour of the applicant (the parent who submitted the appeal on behalf of the child). This compared to 26.7% in 2013-14.
Appeal rates vary by school group	At secondary level the school type with the lowest rate of appeals heard was foundation schools at 1.8%. Community & voluntary controlled schools and voluntary aided schools were jointly the highest with 3.2%. In terms of the percentage appeals upheld, academy schools were just the lowest with 26.6% of appeals heard being found in the favour of the applicant. Voluntary aided were the highest with 32.7%.
Local authority (LA) appeals heard show variation	The overall percentages of appeals heard and upheld varied substantially between local authorities (table 3), with the percentage of appeals heard varying from 0% to 12.9% of new admissions. Note the number of appeals lodged (and therefore potentially heard) can vary significantly from year to year and can be very small, giving the potential for apparently large fluctuations in the rates at local authority level.
LA level appeals upheld also show wide differences	<p>As described above there is wide variation in the rate of appeals upheld at LA level, although extreme high or low rates are based on a very small number of appeals being heard. For local authorities with more than five appeals being heard, the lowest rate upheld was seen in Westminster with 3.1%, and the highest in Barnsley with 87.9% of heard appeals being found in the favour of the applicant.</p> <p>55 LAs heard over 100 appeals, and for these LAs the variation in the percentage upheld varied between 3.2% (Newham) and 54.8% (Warwickshire).</p>

4. Accompanying tables

The following tables are available in Excel format on the department's statistics website: [Admission appeals data series](#)

National tables

- 1 Total appeals by parents against non-admission of their children to primary and secondary local authority maintained schools and academies, entry into the start of the 2014/15 academic year, England.
- 2 Appeals by parents against non-admission of their children to primary and secondary local authority maintained schools and academies, by type of school, entry into the start of the 2013/14 academic year, England

Local authority table

- 3 Appeals by parents against non-admission of their children to primary and secondary local authority maintained schools and academies, entry into the start of the 2013/14 academic year, by local authority area.

When reviewing the tables, please note that:

We preserve confidentiality

The Code of Practice for Official Statistics requires we take reasonable steps to ensure that our published or disseminated statistics protect confidentiality. These data tables have been assessed as not requiring suppression to preserve confidentiality.

Admissions figures include August admissions

Increased flexibility (through the academy and free school programmes) allows schools to choose their own school terms, which could include starting in August. A number of schools exercise this option. To allow for this the admissions totals used in this SFR have been calculated including august admissions.

New time series started

Table 1 gives England level admissions and appeals data by school level. The changes made to this collection in 2014 mean a new time-series is being built up and in this SFR contains two-year's worth of data.

Volatility in local authority level data

Because the number of appeals heard in each local authority can be very small, there can be significant variation in rates of appeals upheld (calculated as percentage of the appeals heard) which only relate to a small number of appeals being upheld.

5. National Statistics

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

The Department has a set of [statistical policies](#) in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

6. Technical Information

A background notes and methodology information document accompanies this SFR. This provides further information on the data sources, the appeals process and quality and explains the methodology used in producing the data.

7. Got a query? Like to give feedback?

If from the media	Press Office News Desk, Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT. 020 7783 8300
If non-media	Helen Bray, Division, Department for Education, IFD Analysis, 4 th floor, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT. admissions.appeals@education.gsi.gov.uk



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