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ADMISSION APPEALS FOR MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND 2006/07

INTRODUCTION

This Statistical First Release gives information about appeals lodged by parents during the academic year 2006/07 against non-admission of their children to their preferred school. It includes all appeals lodged during the academic year across all year groups. Information is provided on the number and percentage of appeals that have been lodged by parents; heard by an appeals panel and decided in favour of the parents.

Tables have previously presented data on maintained primary and secondary schools. In addition to this, for the second year running, information is now also included on infant classes within primary schools. Findings have been derived from two sources – the Survey of Admission Appeals and the School Census.

KEY POINTS (Tables 1 and 2)

All schools

- In 2006/07 56,610 admission appeals were heard by a panel compared with 56,590 in the previous year. Admission appeals heard by a panel represented 3.7 per cent of all new admissions to maintained primary and secondary schools in 2006/07, the same percentage as the previous year.
- 19,450 appeals were decided in favour of the parents compared with 20,540 in the previous year; appeals decided in favour of the parents represented 34.4 per cent of appeals heard by a panel in 2006/07, a decrease of almost two percentage points since 2005/06.

Primary schools

- 17,380 appeals against non-admission to maintained primary schools were heard by a panel in 2006/07 compared with 14,930 a year earlier. Appeals heard by a panel represented 2.0 per cent of all new admissions to maintained primary schools in 2006/07, which represents a slight increase from the previous year.
- 5,590 appeals were decided in favour of the parents in 2006/07 compared with 5,390 in the previous year; appeals decided in favour of the parents represented 32.2 per cent of appeals heard by a panel in 2006/07, a decrease of almost four percentage points since 2005/06.

Infant classes

- In infant classes within primary schools, 8,650 admission appeals were heard by a panel in 2006/07 compared with 6,860 a year earlier. Appeals heard by a panel in 2006/07 represented 2.2 per cent of all new admissions to infant classes within maintained primary schools, an increase of half a percentage point from the previous year.
- 1,590 appeals were decided in favour of the parents in 2006/07 compared with 1,330 in the previous year; appeals decided in favour of the parents represented 18.4 per cent of appeals heard by a panel in 2006/07, a decrease of just over one percentage point from the previous year.

Secondary schools

- 39,230 admission appeals against non-admission to maintained secondary schools were heard by a panel in 2006/07 compared with 41,650 in the previous year. Admission appeals heard by a panel represented 5.7 per cent of all new admissions to maintained secondary schools, a slight decrease from the previous year.
- 13,860 appeals were decided in favour of the parents; appeals decided in favour of the parents represented 35.3 per cent of appeals heard by a panel. This represents a decrease of just over one percentage point since 2005/06.

DEFINITIONAL NOTES

Admission authorities: Local Authorities (LAs) for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools and governing bodies for Voluntary Aided (VA), Aided and Foundation schools, are required under the 1998 School Standards and Framework Act to constitute an independent appeal panel to hear appeals by parents against the non-admission of their child to a school for which they have expressed a preference.

TABLES

Table 1: Appeals lodged by parents against non-admission of their children to Local Authority maintained primary and secondary schools, 2002/03 to 2006/07 (Provisional), England.

Table 2: Appeals lodged by parents against non-admission of their children to Local Authority maintained primary and secondary schools by type of school, 2006/07 (Provisional), England.

The following table will only be available on the website:

Table 3: Appeals lodged by parents against non-admission of their children to Local Authority maintained primary and secondary schools, 2006/07 (Provisional), Local Authorities and Government Office regions in England.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Information presented in this Statistical First Release (SFR) is derived from two sources: - the Survey of Admission Appeals and the School Census. Local Authorities (LAs) provided data for their Community and Voluntary Controlled schools via the Survey of Admission Appeals. Voluntary Aided (VA), Aided and Foundation schools provided their own data via the School Census. Figures relating to admission appeals are as reported by schools and LAs.
2. In a number of our publications, we have changed the coverage to now include CTCs and academies, due to growth in this area. However, the data collected from academies on admissions and appeals are not of sufficient quality for us to use in a Statistical First Release. For this reason the coverage here remains as Local Authority maintained schools only, as in previous publications.
3. The numbers of new admissions shown in Tables 1 and 2 include all pupils, irrespective of age, who joined a school at any time during September to January of the relevant academic year. For infant class admissions this includes pupils whose start date is between September and January and are in National Curriculum Year Groups reception or year 1 or year 2.

They are derived from the Department's School Census. Some local authorities are reporting start dates within August which actually relate to September starters. Numbers of new admissions including August starters are given below:

Primary Schools	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
September to January	897,310	868,220	840,920	839,490	848,590
August to January	909,600	881,200	859,660	853,360	858,260

Secondary Schools	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
September to January	694,860	688,020	676,420	686,080	685,330
August to January	725,880	717,100	704,010	716,270	710,490

If the August to January admissions are used as a denominator instead of the usual measure based on September to January, then the number of appeals as a percentage of new admissions are lower but the trends remain similar. The LA tables, which are more sensitive to this than the national figures, include extra information about the August admissions.

4. The data include some large variations at LA level in the numbers of new admissions when comparing 2006/07 with 2005/06. Examination of the most extreme of these has linked these changes to changes in provision at the LA, e.g. new schools opening, amalgamations and closures, or new sixth forms.
5. The data also include some anomalies at school level related to how the information has been supplied. In some cases it appears that schools have counted all, or nearly all, sixth form students as new entrants. After accounting for schools which have genuinely opened a new sixth form, this behaviour is limited to a minority of schools (around 9% of secondary schools). The effect of this is to increase the number of new admissions, which reduces the rates of appeal as a proportion of these new admissions. At a national level, the estimated effect is marginal.

6. The total number of appeals lodged by parents against the non-admission of their children can be misleading. Some appeals are resolved before they reach a panel hearing (a place at an alternative school is accepted after an appeal has been lodged; the same parent can lodge appeals for more than one school but will not pursue them all). Figures for the total number of admission appeals lodged are given in this publication but the number of appeals heard by an appeals panel is deemed to be the more reliable and critical indicator.
7. Where figures have been rounded there may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and the total as shown. Provisional figures are subject to revision, in previous years we have updated this publication with final data however investigations in 2007 concluded that the differences between provisional and final data were not significant to warrant further publication. We therefore do not expect that figures included in this publication will be updated.
8. A Local Authority level analysis will be available on the Department's website at: <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000789/index.shtml>.
9. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the *National Statistics Code of Practice*. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

Related Publications

SFR18/2007 - Admission Appeals for Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools in England, 2005/2006 (<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000728/index.shtml>).

ENQUIRIES

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TABLE 1: APPEALS BY PARENTS AGAINST NON-ADMISSION OF THEIR CHILDREN TO LOCAL AUTHORITY MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS
Years: 2002/03 to 2006/07 (Provisional)
Coverage: England

		2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07 (p)
Infant Class Appeals in LA Maintained Primary Schools						
Admissions ¹	Number:	..	409,210	392,910	392,640	396,690
Admission Appeals Lodged by Parents ²	Number:	..	10,590	10,080	9,950	12,980
	Percentage ³	..	2.6	2.6	2.5	3.3
Appeals Heard by an Appeals Panel	Number:	..	6,750	6,700	6,860	8,650
	Percentage ⁴	..	1.6	1.7	1.7	2.2
Appeals decided in Parents' favour	Number:	..	1,260	1,300	1,330	1,590
	Percentage ⁵	..	18.7	19.5	19.5	18.4
Other Class Appeals in LA maintained Primary Schools						
Admissions ¹	Number:	..	459,010	448,020	446,850	451,900
Admission Appeals Lodged by Parents ²	Number:	..	10,220	10,580	12,050	13,460
	Percentage ³	..	2.2	2.4	2.7	3.0
Appeals Heard by an Appeals Panel	Number:	..	6,440	6,910	8,080	8,730
	Percentage ⁴	..	1.4	1.5	1.8	1.9
Appeals decided in Parents' favour	Number:	..	3,080	3,390	4,050	4,010
	Percentage ⁵	..	47.8	49.1	50.2	45.9
LA Maintained Primary Schools⁶						
Admissions ¹	Number:	897,310	868,220	840,920	839,490	848,590
Admission Appeals Lodged by Parents ²	Number:	23,150	20,810	20,660	21,990	26,440
	Percentage ³	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.6	3.1
Appeals Heard by an Appeals Panel	Number:	13,760	13,180	13,600	14,930	17,380
	Percentage ⁴	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.8	2.0
Appeals decided in Parents' favour	Number:	4,540	4,340	4,700	5,390	5,590
	Percentage ⁵	33.0	32.9	34.5	36.1	32.2
LA Maintained Secondary Schools						
Admissions ¹	Number:	694,860	688,020	676,420	686,080	685,330
Admission Appeals Lodged by Parents ²	Number:	69,550	65,180	62,750	56,670	53,570
	Percentage ³	10.0	9.5	9.3	8.3	7.8
Appeals Heard by an Appeals Panel	Number:	50,200	46,480	45,730	41,650	39,230
	Percentage ⁴	7.2	6.8	6.8	6.1	5.7
Appeals decided in Parents' favour	Number:	16,820	16,290	16,340	15,150	13,860
	Percentage ⁵	33.5	35.0	35.7	36.4	35.3
All LA Maintained Schools						
Admissions ¹	Number:	1,592,170	1,556,250	1,517,350	1,525,570	1,533,920
Admission Appeals Lodged by Parents ²	Number:	92,700	85,990	83,410	78,670	80,010
	Percentage ³	5.8	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.2
Appeals Heard by an Appeals Panel	Number:	63,960	59,660	59,330	56,590	56,610
	Percentage ⁴	4.0	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.7
Appeals decided in Parents' favour	Number:	21,360	20,630	21,040	20,540	19,450
	Percentage ⁵	33.4	34.6	35.5	36.3	34.4

Source: Admission Appeals Survey and School Census

1. See Notes to Editors 3.

2. See Notes to Editors 6.

3. Number of appeals lodged by parents expressed as a percentage of the number of admissions.

4. Number of appeals heard by a panel expressed as a percentage of the number of admissions.

5. Number of appeals decided in favour of the parents expressed as a percentage of the number of appeals heard by a panel.

6. Includes appeals against non-admission to infant classes in primary schools.

.. Not available

(p) Provisional

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.

TABLE 2: APPEALS BY PARENTS AGAINST NON-ADMISSION OF THEIR CHILDREN TO LOCAL AUTHORITY MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS BY TYPE OF SCHOOL

Year: 2006/07 (Provisional)

Coverage: England

	Number of Admissions ¹	Number of Appeals Lodged by Parents ²	Number of Appeals Heard by an Appeals Panel		Appeals Decided in Parents' Favour	
			Number	% ³	Number	% ⁴
Infant Class Appeals in LA Maintained Primary Schools						
Community ⁵ and Voluntary Controlled	306,570	12,110	7,980	2.6	1,400	17.5
Voluntary Aided	80,000	720	570	0.7	160	27.6
Foundation ⁶	10,130	140	100	1.0	30	33.3
Total	396,690	12,980	8,650	2.2	1,590	18.4
Other Class Appeals in LA Maintained Primary Schools						
Community ⁵ and Voluntary Controlled	370,980	10,820	6,640	1.8	3,150	47.4
Voluntary Aided	66,470	2,410	1,910	2.9	790	41.0
Foundation ⁶	14,450	230	180	1.2	70	40.2
Total	451,900	13,460	8,730	1.9	4,010	45.9
LA Maintained Primary⁷						
Community ⁵ and Voluntary Controlled	677,540	22,930	14,620	2.2	4,550	31.1
Voluntary Aided	146,470	3,130	2,490	1.7	940	37.9
Foundation ⁶	24,580	370	280	1.1	110	37.7
Total	848,590	26,440	17,380	2.0	5,590	32.2
LA Maintained Secondary						
Community ⁵ and Voluntary Controlled	452,860	35,020	23,520	5.2	9,180	39.0
Voluntary Aided	105,960	9,150	7,920	7.5	2,110	26.6
Foundation ⁶	126,500	9,410	7,790	6.2	2,570	33.0
Total	685,330	53,570	39,230	5.7	13,860	35.3
All LA Maintained Schools						
Community ⁵ and Voluntary Controlled	1,130,410	57,950	38,140	3.4	13,730	36.0
Voluntary Aided	252,430	12,280	10,410	4.1	3,050	29.3
Foundation ⁶	151,080	9,780	8,070	5.3	2,680	33.2
TOTAL	1,533,920	80,010	56,610	3.7	19,450	34.4

Source: Admission Appeals Survey and School Census

1. See Notes to Editors 3.

2. See Notes to Editors 6.

3. Number of appeals expressed as a percentage of the number of admissions.

4. Number of appeals decided in favour of the parents expressed as a percentage of the number of appeals heard by a panel.

5. Community schools, previously County schools.

6. Foundation schools, previously Grant Maintained schools.

7. Includes appeals against non-admission to infant classes in primary schools.

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.