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## **ADMISSION APPEALS FOR MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND 2005/06 (PROVISIONAL)**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This Statistical First Release gives provisional information about appeals lodged by parents against non-admission of their children to their preferred school in 2005/06. It provides information 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, 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**

#### **All schools**

- In 2005/06 around 56,590 admission appeals were heard by a panel compared with 59,330 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 2005/06, a slight decrease from the previous year.
- 20,540 appeals were decided in favour of the parents compared with some 21,040 in the previous year; appeals decided in favour of the parents represented 36.3 per cent of appeals heard by a panel in 2005/06, an increase of almost one percentage point since 2004/05.

#### **Primary schools**

- Some 14,930 appeals against non-admission to maintained primary schools were heard by a panel in 2005/06 compared with 13,600 a year earlier. Appeals heard by a panel represented 1.8 per cent of all new admissions to maintained primary schools in 2005/06, which represents a slight increase from the previous year.
- 5,390 appeals were decided in favour of the parents in 2005/06 compared with around 4,700 in the previous year; appeals decided in favour of the parents represented 36.1 per cent of appeals heard by a panel in 2005/06, an increase of over one percentage point since 2004/05.
- In infant classes within primary schools, 1,330 appeals were decided in favour of the parents in 2005/06 compared with around 1,300 in the previous year; appeals decided in favour of the parents represented 19.5 per cent of appeals heard by a panel in 2005/06, remaining the same as the previous year.

## Secondary schools

- Around 41,650 admission appeals against non-admission to maintained secondary schools were heard by a panel in 2005/06 compared with almost 45,730 in the previous year. Admission appeals heard by a panel represented 6.1 per cent of all new admissions to maintained secondary schools, a decrease from the previous year.
- 15,150 appeals were decided in favour of the parents; appeals decided in favour of the parents represented 36.4 per cent of appeals heard by a panel. This represents an increase of over half a percentage point since 2004/05.

## 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 maintained primary and secondary schools: England 2001/02-2005/06 (Provisional).

Table 2: Appeals lodged by parents against non-admission of their children to maintained primary and secondary schools by type of school: England 2005/06 (Provisional).

### **The following table will only be available on the website:**

Table 3: Appeals lodged by parents against non-admission of their children to maintained primary and secondary schools by Local Authority, 2005/06 (Provisional)

## NOTES TO EDITORS

- 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.
- 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. Figures are not available on the same basis before 2001/2002, due to changes in the underlying data collection in January 2002. 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	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
September to January	942,580	897,310	868,220	840,920	839,490
August to January	954,640	909,600	881,200	859,660	853,360

Secondary Schools	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
September to January	700,860	694,860	688,020	676,420	686,080
August to January	730,770	725,880	717,100	704,010	716,270

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.

- The numbers of new admissions are higher than that expected based on demographic changes. Exploration of the data has indicated that the main reasons for this are the re-organisation of schools within Local Authorities and the opening of school sixth forms.
- 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.
- Provisional figures are subject to revision. Where figures have been rounded there may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and the total as shown. Final figures are expected to be published in September 2007 in the Statistical First Release: Schools and Pupils in England, January 2007 (Final).
- An LA level analysis will be available on the Department's website at: <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000728/index.shtml>

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Table 1:

**APPEALS BY PARENTS AGAINST NON-ADMISSION OF THEIR CHILDREN TO MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

2001/02 to 2005/06 (Provisional)

England

		2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06 (p)
<b>Infant Class Appeals in Primary Schools</b>						
Admissions (1)	Number:	..	..	409,210	392,910	392,640
Admission Appeals Lodged by Parents (2)	Number:	..	..	10,590	10,080	9,950
	Percentage (3)	..	..	2.6	2.6	2.5
Appeals Heard by an Appeals Panel	Number:	..	..	6,750	6,700	6,860
	Percentage (4)	..	..	1.6	1.7	1.7
Appeals decided in Parents' favour	Number:	..	..	1,260	1,300	1,330
	Percentage (5)	..	..	18.7	19.5	19.5
<b>Other Class Appeals in Primary Schools</b>						
Admissions (1)	Number:	..	..	459,010	448,020	446,850
Admission Appeals Lodged by Parents (2)	Number:	..	..	10,220	10,580	12,050
	Percentage (3)	..	..	2.2	2.4	2.7
Appeals Heard by an Appeals Panel	Number:	..	..	6,440	6,910	8,080
	Percentage (4)	..	..	1.4	1.5	1.8
Appeals decided in Parents' favour	Number:	..	..	3,080	3,390	4,050
	Percentage (5)	..	..	47.8	49.1	50.2
<b>Primary Schools (6)</b>						
Admissions (1)	Number:	942,580	897,310	868,220	840,920	839,490
Admission Appeals Lodged by Parents (2)	Number:	25,680	23,150	20,810	20,660	21,990
	Percentage (3)	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.6
Appeals Heard by an Appeals Panel	Number:	16,160	13,760	13,180	13,600	14,930
	Percentage (4)	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.8
Appeals decided in Parents' favour	Number:	5,510	4,540	4,340	4,700	5,390
	Percentage (5)	34.1	33.0	32.9	34.5	36.1
<b>Secondary Schools</b>						
Admissions (1)	Number:	700,860	694,860	688,020	676,420	686,080
Admission Appeals Lodged by Parents (2)	Number:	69,210	69,550	65,180	62,750	56,670
	Percentage (3)	9.9	10.0	9.5	9.3	8.3
Appeals Heard by an Appeals Panel	Number:	49,980	50,200	46,480	45,730	41,650
	Percentage (4)	7.1	7.2	6.8	6.8	6.1
Appeals decided in Parents' favour	Number:	16,220	16,820	16,290	16,340	15,150
	Percentage (5)	32.4	33.5	35.0	35.7	36.4
<b>Primary and Secondary Schools</b>						
Admissions (1)	Number:	1,643,440	1,592,170	1,556,250	1,517,350	1,525,570
Admission Appeals Lodged by Parents (2)	Number:	94,890	92,700	85,990	83,410	78,670
	Percentage (3)	5.8	5.8	5.5	5.5	5.2
Appeals Heard by an Appeals Panel	Number:	66,150	63,960	59,660	59,330	56,590
	Percentage (4)	4.0	4.0	3.8	3.9	3.7
Appeals decided in Parents' favour	Number:	21,730	21,360	20,630	21,040	20,540
	Percentage (5)	32.8	33.4	34.6	35.5	36.3

Source: Admission Appeals Survey and School Census

(1) See Notes to Editors 2.

(2) See Notes to Editors 4.

(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 MAINTAINED PRIMARY  
AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS BY TYPE OF SCHOOL**  
2005/06 (Provisional)  
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)
<b>INFANT CLASS APPEALS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS</b>						
Community (5) and Voluntary Controlled	304,230	9,220	6,260	2.1	1,140	18.3
Voluntary Aided	78,570	610	500	0.6	170	34.8
Foundation (6)	9,840	120	100	1.0	20	16.7
<b>Total Infant Class Appeals in Primary Schools</b>	<b>392,640</b>	<b>9,950</b>	<b>6,860</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1,330</b>	<b>19.5</b>
<b>OTHER CLASS APPEALS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS</b>						
Community (5) and Voluntary Controlled	366,670	9,840	6,250	1.7	3,260	52.2
Voluntary Aided	65,460	2,040	1,720	2.6	750	43.8
Foundation (6)	14,730	160	110	0.8	40	36.6
<b>Total Other Class Appeals in Primary Schools</b>	<b>446,850</b>	<b>12,050</b>	<b>8,080</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>4,050</b>	<b>50.2</b>
<b>PRIMARY (7)</b>						
Community (5) and Voluntary Controlled	670,900	19,060	12,510	1.9	4,400	35.2
Voluntary Aided	144,020	2,650	2,220	1.5	930	41.8
Foundation (6)	24,570	280	210	0.8	60	27.4
<b>Total Primary</b>	<b>839,490</b>	<b>21,990</b>	<b>14,930</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>5,390</b>	<b>36.1</b>
<b>SECONDARY</b>						
Community (5) and Voluntary Controlled	461,670	38,110	26,210	5.7	10,630	40.5
Voluntary Aided	103,170	8,620	7,340	7.1	1,950	26.6
Foundation (6)	121,240	9,950	8,100	6.7	2,570	31.8
<b>Total Secondary</b>	<b>686,080</b>	<b>56,670</b>	<b>41,650</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>15,150</b>	<b>36.4</b>
<b>ALL SCHOOLS</b>						
Community (5) and Voluntary Controlled	1,132,580	57,170	38,720	3.4	15,030	38.8
Voluntary Aided	247,190	11,270	9,560	3.9	2,880	30.1
Foundation (6)	145,810	10,230	8,310	5.7	2,630	31.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,525,570</b>	<b>78,670</b>	<b>56,590</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>20,540</b>	<b>36.3</b>

Source: Admission Appeals Survey and School Census

(1) See Notes to Editors 2.

(2) See Notes to Editors 4.

(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.