

Admissions – Admission Appeals changes

The government have made regulatory changes to admission appeals which came into force on 24 April 2020 and will remain in force until 31 January 2021. Full details on the changes can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/admission-appeals-for-school-places/coronavirus-covid-19-school-admission-appeals>

The changes mean:

- admission authorities will have sufficient time to deal with the annual peak in appeals for children due to start new schools at the beginning of September 2020
- parents will continue to have the right to appeal to any school which has refused their child a place

The new regulations:

- disapply the requirement that appeals panels must be held in person and instead give flexibility for panel hearings to take place either in person, by telephone, video conference or through a paper-based appeal where all parties can make representations in writing
- relax the rules with regard to what happens if one of the 3 panel members withdraws (temporarily or permanently) to make it permissible for the panel to continue with and conclude the appeal as a panel of 2
- amend the deadlines relating to appeals for the time that the new regulations are in force
- provide more flexibility for admission authorities to set new or revised deadlines for submitting an appeal.

The amendments to deadlines mean that appellants must be given:

- at least 28 calendar days' written notice of a new appeal deadline
- at least 14 calendar days' written notice of an appeal hearing (although appellants can waive their right to this)
- All deadlines for the hearing of appeals must be as soon as reasonably practicable
- Decision letters should be sent within 7 calendar days of the hearing, wherever possible.

If you have any concerns about carrying out Admission Appeals then please contact rbushell@kcsp.org.uk