

EXTRACT FROM THE SCHOOL ADMISSIONS CODE (MAY 2021) RELATING TO IN YEAR ADMISSIONS
AND THE NEED FOR CO-ORDINATION.

In-year admissions:

2.23 A parent can apply for a place for their child at any school, at any time. Local authorities are not required to co-ordinate in-year applications for schools for which they are not the admission authority. They may, however, coordinate in-year applications for any or all own admission authority schools in their area, with the agreement of the relevant admission authorities. In 2021, local authorities must publish information on their website by 31 October 2021 to explain how in-year applications can be made and how they will be dealt with from 1 November 2021 until 31 August 2022. In all subsequent years, local authorities must publish information on their website by 31 August at the latest each year to explain how in-year applications can be made and how they will be dealt with from 1 September onwards in that year. This includes setting out which schools they will co-ordinate the applications for and which schools will manage their own in-year admissions. They must also set out contact details for any admission authority that manages its own in-year admissions.

2.24 To enable local authorities to do this, in 2021 own admission authority schools must inform the local authority by 1 October whether they intend to be part of the local authority's in-year coordination scheme for the period to 31 August 2022 (where this is offered). In all subsequent years, own admission authorities must inform the local authority by 1 August at the latest each year 58 "Late applications" are applications for entry in a relevant age group which are submitted before the first day of the first term in the admission year but have not been made in time to enable the local authority to offer a place on National Offer Day. 59 Regulations 26 to 32 and Schedule 2 of the School Admissions Regulations 2012 cover the requirements for such schemes. 60 An application is an in-year application if it is for the admission of a child to a relevant age group, but it is submitted on or after the first day of the first term of the admission year, or if it is for the admission of a child to an age group other than a relevant age group. whether they intend to be part of the local authority's in-year co-ordination scheme for the following 1 September to 31 August (where this is offered) or whether they will be managing their own in-year admissions. By the same date, for schools that intend to be part of the local authority's in-year co-ordination for the following academic year, they must also provide the local authority with all the information that the local authority is required to publish on its website, including application forms.

2.25 Local authorities must provide a suitable application form (and a supplementary information form where necessary) for parents to complete when applying for a place for their child at a school for which they co-ordinate in-year admissions. Where a local authority receives an in-year application for a school which manages its own in-year admissions, it must promptly forward the application to the relevant admission authority, which must process it in accordance with its own in-year admission arrangements.

2.26 In 2021, own admission authorities and governing bodies must set out on the school's website by 31 October 2021 how in-year applications will be dealt with from the 1 November 2021 until 31 August 2022. In all subsequent years, they must set out by 31 August at the latest each year, on the school's website how in-year applications will be dealt with from the 1 September until the following 31 August. They must set out how parents can apply for a school place, and, where they manage their own in-year admissions, provide a suitable application form for parents to complete (and a

supplementary information form where necessary), and set out when parents will be notified of the outcome of their application and details about the right to appeal. If the admission authority is to be a part of the local authority's in-year co-ordination scheme, it must provide information on where parents can find details of the relevant scheme. An admission authority, governing body or local authority must provide a hard copy of the information about in-year applications on request for those who do not have access to the internet.

2.27 Local authorities must, on request, provide information to prospective parents about the places still available in all schools within their area. To enable them to do this, the admission authorities for all schools in the area must provide the local authority with details of the number of places available at their schools whenever this information is requested, to assist a parent seeking a school place. Such details should be provided no later than two school days following receipt of a request from the local authority.

2.28 With the exception of designated grammar schools, all maintained schools, and academies, including schools designated with a religious character, that have places available must offer a place to every child who has applied for one, without condition or the use of any oversubscription criteria, unless admitting the child would prejudice the efficient provision of education or use of resources. For example, admission authorities must not refuse to admit a child solely because: a) they have applied later than other applicants; b) they are not of the faith of the school in the case of a school designated with a religious character; c) they have followed a different curriculum at their previous school; or d) information has not been received from their previous school.

2.29 Where an admission authority is dealing with multiple in-year admissions and do not have sufficient places for every child who has applied for one, they must allocate places on the basis of the oversubscription criteria in their determined admission arrangements⁶¹ only. If a waiting list is maintained, it must be maintained in line with paragraph 2.15.

2.30 Parents must not be refused the opportunity to make an application or be told that they can only be placed on a waiting list rather than make a formal application. Upon receipt of an in-year application, the admission authority, or the local authority if it is co-ordinating the admissions authority's in-year admissions, should aim to notify the parents of the outcome of their application in writing within 10 school days, but they must be notified in writing within 15 school days⁶². Where an application is refused, the admission authority must also set out the reason for refusal and information about the right to appeal in accordance with paragraph 2.32. Where an admission authority manages its own in-year admissions, it must also notify the local authority of every application and its outcome as soon as reasonably practicable, but should aim to be within two school days, to allow the local authority to keep up to date figures on the availability of places in the area and to ensure they are aware of any children who may not have a school place.

2.31 Where an applicant is offered a school place following an in-year application, and the offer is accepted, arrangements should be made for the child to start school as soon as possible, particularly where the child is out of school.