



GUIDANCE NOTES FOR PARENTS / CARERS APPEALING FOR A SECONDARY PHASE PLACE IN-YEAR AT BLUECOAT TRENT ACADEMY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE APPEALS PROCESS



Will an appeal affect my child's position on the waiting list?

Appeals do not affect positions on the waiting list. Your child's position is determined entirely by the Academy's admissions arrangements only. Equally, waiting lists are not something that appeals panels can take into consideration therefore your position will not influence the panel's decision when hearing an appeal.

How do I submit an appeal?

Appeals need to be submitted in writing directly to the academy. An appeal can be in the form of an email, letter or completed 'BTA In-Year Appeal 2021-2022' available on the academy website. Details in the appeal must include; child's name, date of birth, gender, full address as well as parent/carers name, relationship to child, contact number and email address. Please see below details for sending your appeal.

Email: appeals@archwaytrust.co.uk

Post: F.A.O Independent Appeals Panel Clerk
c/o Archway Learning Trust
Aspley Lane
Nottingham
NG8 5GY

What types of additional supporting documentation should I submit with my appeal?

It is for you to decide what information and documents you wish to include in your case. However, if your appeal is based on medical grounds, you should, where possible, provide written evidence from a medical practitioner to support this. If your case is based on a house move you should provide official confirmation of your new address. The Appeal Panel will not contact people on your behalf, for example; if you want the Appeal Panel to see a medical report or consider the views of a Social Worker or a previous teacher you will need to get that information yourself and submit it as part of your appeal. Please do not submit original documents that you wish to keep as all the information and documents you submit as part of your appeal will be retained. If you submit information or photographs that include other children please make sure that you have parental approval and that you are not in breach of any data protection rights. Information that you submit will need to be photocopied so it can be submitted to the Appeal Panel. It is your responsibility to ensure that any documentation you are submitting is clear and can be easily copied. Supporting information or additional evidence must be received by the evidence deadline given in communication you will receive ahead of your appeal. Any information received after the stated evidence deadline might not be considered as part of your case. It will be the Appeal Panel's decision whether or not it should accept any late information.

How long do I have to lodge my appeal?

The decision letter you received once you have submitted and In-Year application to the academy will give you a specific deadline for lodging the appeal. This will usually be 20 days from receipt of a refusal letter. If you have passed this deadline, you can still appeal and your appeal will still be heard. However this may lengthen your time waiting for a decision.

Can I appeal for more than one school/academy at the same time?

Yes, you can submit appeals to any school/academy that you have made an application to and been refused and these can be done at the same time.

What should I expect once I have submitted my appeal?

You should receive an acknowledgment letter within 7 working days of submitting your appeal. If you have not received this you are advised to contact admissions at the Academy on 0115 900 7245.

What happens in an appeal?

In normal prejudice appeals for school admissions there is a two stage process. **Stage One:** The admission authority will present its case to the panel and parents appealing. The panel will then need to determine the following in making a decision to proceed to stage two of the appeals process. Whether the admission arrangements have been correctly and impartially applied in the cases in question for Bluecoat Trent Academy, and whether the admission of additional children to the academy would prejudice the provision of education at Bluecoat Trent Academy. **Stage Two:** In stage two parents/carers will be given the opportunity to present their individual case to the panel and give reasons as to why their child should be admitted to the academy.

What do the appeals panel consider in stage two of the appeal?

The panel will balance the prejudice to the students already on roll at the academy against your case for your child to be admitted to the academy or whether your child would be more prejudiced by not going to the academy. In deciding as to who would be more prejudiced, the panel will consider evidence from the admissions authority, such as communal space, size of classrooms, levels of special educational needs or English as an additional language etc. They will also take into account your reasons for expressing a preference for the academy, such as if there are no other schools nearby with places available and any particular difficulties that may result from your child not attending Bluecoat Trent Academy.

Who are the Independent Appeals Panel & Panel Clerk?

The independent appeals panel are a group of people who are independent of the local authority, the academies admission authority and the academy itself and are appointed by the admission authority to hear appeals in accordance with the School Admission and Appeals Code. The Code determines that the panel is made up of lay persons and people with experience of education. In most cases the panel will comprise of three persons, and at least one must be a lay person and at least one must be experienced in education. The Independent Appeals Panel Clerk is an individual appointed by the admissions authority to ensure that the admission appeal process is conducted properly, and in accordance with the Code of Practice for School Admission Appeals.

When and how will I be made aware of the decision of my appeal?

The decision of the panel will be communicated to you in writing within 5 working days of the appeal. However, in the case of multiple appeals this will be within 5 working days of the last appeal hearing. This will be by post.

If my appeal is unsuccessful can I appeal again?

You can only appeal once per academic year. You will not be able to submit another appeal until your child is in their next academic year of education. The only exception of this would be due to a substantial change of circumstances as determined by the Independent appeals clerk.

What is the next step if I am not happy with the outcome of the appeal?

The outcome of the appeal cannot be revisited. If the appeal was not administered correctly then you can take your case to the Regional Schools Commissioner, who will only look at the process to ensure you had a fair hearing, you will need to outline reasons why the appeal did not meet the guidelines set out in the Schools Appeals Code. They do not have the power to amend the decision made by the panel.