

NEW CODES OF PRACTICE

Admission Forum - C



Education Secretary Michael Gove MP published the Departmental response to the consultation on changes to the Admissions Framework on 2 November 2011. He also published revised draft School Admissions and School Admission Appeals Codes.

This follows a 12 week consultation on proposals to overhaul a system which is too often complex, confusing and unfair for parents. The consultation elicited 1,337 responses, 700 from parents who broadly welcomed the changes being made to the Codes.

The Codes and draft regulations will be laid before Parliament in December, in order to come into force in February 2012, and thereby affect the allocation of places for children starting school in September 2013.

Revised draft School Admissions Code of Practice

Key proposals include:

- Giving adopted children who were previously in care the same, highest priority for places as looked-after children
- Introducing a 'national offer day' for primary places, mirroring that for secondary offers (effective for admissions in the 14/15 academic year)
- Giving greater freedom to schools to increase the number of places they are able to offer to parents
- Allowing schools to prioritise the children of staff employed there for two or more years, or who will meet a skills shortage
- Allowing infant classes to exceed the statutory limit where the 31st child is a twin or from multiple births, or of armed forces personnel
- Allowing academies to prioritise disadvantaged children who are eligible for the Pupil Premium
- A requirement that admission authorities must inform parents of the outcomes of selection tests before parents make applications for other schools
- Allowing schools to take direct applications from parents to help reduce delays in finding a school place once term starts.

Revised draft School Appeals Code of Practice

Key proposals include:

- Removal of set timescales for training – clerk to ensure relevant up to date training
- Shorter timescale to hear appeals at the normal point of entry
- Infant class size appeals to move to a two stage appeal process in line with other appeals

Next steps

The Codes were published on the DFE website on Wednesday 2 November to allow schools and local authorities to take account of the proposed changes. A further short consultation on draft regulations has now commenced, proposing consequential changes to regulations to bring them into line with the Codes and the other changes to legislation proposed in the Education Bill. The Codes and regulations will be laid before Parliament in December and January, to come into force in February 2012 for pupil admissions in September 2013.

The revised draft Codes are available to download from the associated resources section of this page - <http://www.education.gov.uk/a00199845/departmental-response-to-the-consultation-on-changes-to-the-admissions-framework>.

The draft regulations and consultation response form is available from this page - <http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/>

Consultation 10 November 2011 to 5 December 2011