



Wyedean

School and Sixth Form Centre

Aspire together, achieve together
adsecere pariter, perfecere pariter

Admissions Policy 2025-26

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| Approved by: | Strategy Committee Full Board of Trustees | Date: 11 th September 2023 Date: 10 th October 2023 |
| Next review due by: | September 2024 | |

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Statement of intent

At Wyedean School and Sixth Form Centre, we welcome all students, and places at the school are offered in an open, fair, clear and objective manner. We work to the principle that any parent accessing our admissions arrangements will be able to understand easily how places for that school will be allocated, and will not be alienated or discouraged from applying based on admissions criteria.

The table below sets out who the admission authority is and other responsible bodies in our school.

| Type of school | Who is the admission authority? | Who deals with complaints about arrangements? | Who is responsible for arranging/providing for an appeal against refusal of a place at the school? |
|----------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Academy | Academy trust | Schools Adjudicator | Academy trust |

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Equality Act 2010
- Human Rights Act 1998
- School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2022) 'School Admission Appeals Code'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Student Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- SEN Information Report

2. Roles and responsibilities

The Board of Trustees is responsible for:

- Acting in accordance with the relevant legislation and guidance when carrying out the overall admission of students into the school.
- Overseeing, and determining annually, admissions arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted, including the criteria that will be applied if there are more applicants than places at the school.
- Ensuring that oversubscription criteria does not discriminate against any child.
- Ensuring that the practices and criteria used to decide the allocation of school places are fair, clear and objective.

- Publishing the admissions arrangements on the school website, including the oversubscription criteria.
- Publicly consulting on any proposed changes to the admissions arrangements.
- Clearly communicating any reasons for rejecting the admission of a student, as well as the parent's right to appeal and the appeal process.
- Implementing any advice or recommendations given by the Schools Adjudicator without undue delay.

The Schools Adjudicator is responsible for:

- Acting in line with the relevant legislation and guidance pertaining to admissions.
- Receiving concerns and objections regarding the admission of students and making recommendations to the admission authority as a result of these concerns and objections.
- Approving variations to determined admissions arrangements where there has been a major change in circumstances or law.

The appeals clerk is responsible for:

- Having an in-depth knowledge of the relevant appeals codes and other relevant law.
- Providing an independent and impartial service for admission appeals.
- Making the necessary administrative arrangements for hearings.
- Notifying all parties of the order of proceedings in advance of an appeals hearing.
- Responding to queries from appellants in advance of an appeals hearing or identifying who will be appropriate to respond.
- Being an independent source of advice on procedure and admissions law.
- Keeping accurate records of proceedings and providing written notification of the appeals panel's decisions

3. Determining a PAN

The number of places available will be determined by the capacity of the school; the PAN for new year group students is 174.

The Board of Trustees will publish its PAN annually. The Board of Trustees will notify the LA of any increases to the agreed PANs, and will reference the changes on the school's website. The Board of Trustees will consult on any proposal to decrease the school's PAN – consultation will not occur where it is proposed to increase or keep the same PAN.

If the Board of Trustees decides that it can accept more students than laid out in its PAN, it will notify the LA in good time so that the LA can deliver its coordination responsibilities effectively.

In line with statutory requirements, the Board of Trustees will not refuse admission to any age group, other than the relevant age groups, on the grounds that the number of children admitted has already reached the PAN; however, the Board of Trustees may refuse admission on the grounds that the admission of another child would prejudice the provision of efficient education or efficient use of resources.

4. Oversubscription criteria

The Board of Trustees will aim to ensure that oversubscription criteria is reasonable, clear, objective, procedurally fair, and compliant with all relevant legislation, including equalities legislation. This means that the oversubscription criteria will not unfairly disadvantage, whether directly or indirectly, any child based on a protected characteristic or economic disadvantage.

In the event that there are more applicants than available places, the Board of Trustees will apply the following oversubscription criteria, in order of priority given:

1. Children Looked After:
 - i. A 'child looked after' is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school. In Gloucestershire, such children are referred to as Children in Care.
 - ii. This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children's Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders).
 - iii. Under the provisions of s.12 of the Children and Families Act 2014.
 - iv. See Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 which defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).
 - v. A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.
2. Children living in the priority catchment area (parishes of Alvington, Hewelsfield, St.Briavels, Tidenham and Woolaston).
3. Children wishing to join a sibling attending the school and who will continue to do so at the time the applicant child starts the school. For the purposes of this policy, a sibling is defined as a brother or sister, half-brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, stepbrother or sister, or the child of the parent's / carer's partner. The child must be living in the same family unit at the same address as the sibling.
4. Children with any authenticated medical reason for attending the school. Applications under this criterion will only be considered if they are supported by a written statement from the child's doctor, which makes a very specific connection between the child's medical needs and the resources / facilities available at Wyedean School.
5. Children who live closest to the school through a straight-line measurement on the Ordnance Survey map. The distance will be measured from the ordnance survey point of the child's home address to the door at the ordnance survey point of the school, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority.

All students who have named the school in their EHC plan will be admitted.

Where two applications cannot otherwise be separated, the trust will follow a fair, clear and effective 'tie-breaker' procedure by allocating the place to the student who lives closest to school.

When formulating the school's admission arrangements, the Board of Trustees **will not**:

- Place any conditions on the consideration of any application other than those in the oversubscription criteria published in their admission arrangements.
- Take into account any previous schools attended unless it is a named feeder school.
- Give priority to children whose parents rank preferred schools in their application.
- Introduce any new selection by ability.
- Give priority to children based on any practical or financial support their parents give to the school or associated parties, including any affiliated religious organisation.
- Give priority to children according to the occupational, marital, financial or educational status of parents applying – apart from where these factors determine a child's student premium eligibility, and for children whose parents work at school.
- Take account of reports from previous schools about children's past behaviour, attendance, attitude or achievement, or that of any other children in the family.
- Discriminate against any protected characteristic.
- Give priority based on a child's or their parents' past or present hobbies or activities.
- Name fee-paying independent schools as feeder schools.
- Interview children or parents.
- Request financial contributions as part of the admissions process.
- Request photographs of children – apart from for proof of identity when sitting selection tests.

Equal opportunities

The Board of Trustees will not establish admissions criteria that excludes individuals with a particular protected characteristic. The admissions criteria will not exclude a greater proportion of students with particular protected characteristics, unless the Board of Trustees can justify how this is a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.

The admissions criteria will not discriminate against disabled applicants, unless the Board of Trustees can justify how this is a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.

Admissions procedures

The school will offer open events and school visits to all potential applicants, irrespective of any protected characteristics. Where necessary, the school will make reasonable adjustments for disabled applicants or disabled parents.

The school may assess its ability to cater to the applicant's needs by:

- Inviting the applicant to attend the school for half a day.
- Visiting the applicant's home.
- Visiting the applicant's current education provision.

5. Consultation, determination and publication

Consultation

The Board of Trustees will consult on any proposed changes to the admissions arrangements. Consultation will last for a minimum of six weeks and will take place between 1 October and 31 January in the determination year. The Board of Trustees will consult on admissions arrangements at least once every seven years, even if no changes have been made in that time.

The Board of Trustees will consult with the following:

- Parents of children between the ages of two and 18
- Stakeholders
- Other admission authorities within the relevant area
- The LA
- Any LAs in which students have historically come from

Determination and publication of admissions arrangements

The Board of Trustees will publish a copy of the full proposed admission arrangements and the contact details of the individual responsible for admissions liaison on the school website www.wyeDean.glos.sch.uk. A copy of the proposed admission arrangements will be made available upon request.

Admission arrangements will be determined by 28 February in the determination year on an annual basis, even when no changes to the arrangements have been made.

The Board of Trustees will notify all appropriate bodies of the finalised admissions arrangements when they have been determined. A copy of the finalised admission arrangements will be sent to the LA for entry by 15 March in the determination year. Finalised admission arrangements will also be published on the school website www.wyeDean.glos.sch.uk by 15 March in the determination year, and will continue to display them for the whole offer year.

Any objections to the admission arrangements will be directed to the Schools Adjudicator by 15 May in the determination year.

The Board of Trustees will provide the LA with all of the information it needs to compile the composite prospectus by 8 August in the determination year.

Variations

The Board of Trustees will not revise the admissions arrangements for a school year once they have been determined, unless this would be necessary to give effect to a mandatory requirement, a determination of the Schools Adjudicator, or any misprint in the admission arrangements.

The Board of Trustees may, in exceptional circumstances, propose variations where there have been major changes in circumstances that necessitate a change.

Any proposals to vary the admissions arrangements will be referred to the Secretary of State.

6. Applications and offers

Applications

Parents will be provided with a common application form (CAF) by the LA where they will note their three preferred schools, along with a brief explanation, in rank order – the schools do not have to be located in the LA area where the parents live. Parents will provide LAs with the following information within the CAF:

- Their name and their child's name and date of birth
- Their and their child's address and proof of residence

The CAF will be submitted to the parents' LA. Parents are not guaranteed to have their preferences met.

The Board of Trustees will request supplementary information for the purpose of processing applications, where necessary; however, it will not request any of the following:

- Any personal details, including information on criminal convictions or financial status
- The first language of the parent or child
- Details about the parents' or child's disability, medical or SEND requirements
- Any parental agreement to follow the ethos of the school in a practical way
- For the child to complete any part of the form or for two parents to provide signatures

Once a place has been offered, the Board of Trustees may ask for the child's short birth certificate as proof of birth date.

The school will never give priority to applications solely on the basis that they have completed a supplementary form.

For previously LAC (PLAC) and LAC, the Board of Trustees will request a copy of the adoption order, child arrangements order or special guardianship order, and a letter from the LA confirming that the child was looked after immediately prior to the order being made.

The school may request evidence that demonstrates a child was in state care outside of England prior to being adopted.

Admissions to Wyedean Sixth Form Centre

Applications to sixth forms can be made using the CAF; however, students already on roll who are transferring into Year 12 are not obliged to use it.

| Students who've undertaken GCSEs | In England | In Wales |
|---|---|---|
| Studying three or more A-levels. | Five GCSEs at grade 6 or above, including English and Maths *. | Five GCSEs at grade B or above, including English and Maths *. |
| Studying a mix of A-levels and BTECs | Five GCSEs at grade 4 and above. Two of which should be grade 6. | Five GCSEs at grade C and above. Two of which should be grade B. |
| Studying BTECs only | Five GCSEs at grade 4 and above. Plus a grade 4 in the relevant subject area. | Five GCSEs at grade C and above. Plus a grade C in the relevant subject area. |

* May be offered by individual subject areas if Maths or English are not secured, subject to a contract/trial to be agreed with the subject area.

• Some subjects also require specific grades in specific GCSE subjects (as listed against the subject)

The entry requirements for the sixth form are the same for all students, regardless of their previous school, and where oversubscribed, priority will be given to LAC and PLAC who meet the academic criteria – all other oversubscription criteria will apply as normal.

Allocating places

The Board of Trustees will only allocate places on the basis of determined admissions arrangements. Any decisions to offer or refuse places will be decided by the Board of Trustees or an admissions committee established by the Board of Trustees. A clear record will be kept of all decisions made on applications, including in-year applications.

The Board of Trustees will not refuse admission for a child on the basis that:

- They have applied later than other applicants.
- They followed a different curriculum at their previous school.
- Information has not been received from their previous school.

Children Looked After:

1. A 'child looked after' is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school. In Gloucestershire, such children are referred to as Children in Care.
2. This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children's Act 2002 (see section 46 adoption orders).
3. Under the provisions of s.12 of the Children and Families Act 2014.
4. See Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 which defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).
5. A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

Students from schools in the Forest of Dean area (Dean Academy, Dene Magna School, Forest High School, Five Acres High School, Newent School).

Students who live closest to the school through a straight-line measurement on the Ordnance Survey map. The distance will be measured from the ordnance survey point of the student's home address to the ordnance survey point of the school, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority.

Students not of usual school age will not be given less of a priority where the school is oversubscribed.

In the event that parents of a child wish for their child to be admitted outside their normal age group, the school's Principal will assist the Board of Trustees in deciding on which year group the child will enter. Once a decision has been reached, the child's parents will be informed in writing along with an explanation of how the decision was reached and any reasons why.

For children of UK service professionals and crown servants, the following procedure will be adhered to:

- A place will be allocated to the child in advance of the family arriving in the area named in the application form, where one is available.
- The application must be accompanied with an official letter confirming the relocation date.
- The address at which the child will live will be used when considering the application against the oversubscription criteria – a Unit or quartering address must be used where this is requested by the child's parent.
- The application will not be refused on the grounds of the child not currently living in the area or not currently having an intended address, nor will places be uniquely reserved.
- The arrangements for service children will be in line with the government's commitment to removing disadvantage for service children.

The school must admit all children who have an EHC plan where the school is named. Children with SEND who do not have an EHC plan will be treated equally to all other applicants in the admissions process. This includes children who may need extra support or reasonable adjustments to be made. The details of the school's SEND provision can be found in our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy and SEN Information Report.

Offers

All offers will be made on National Offer Day, i.e. 1 March or the next working day where this date falls on a weekend or bank holiday.

Where the school is oversubscribed, the Board of Trustees will rank applications in accordance with the determined arrangements, and will ensure that only one offer will be made per child by the LA.

Withdrawing an offer

An offer will only be withdrawn if it has been made in error, a parent has not responded within **20 working days**, or if the offer was made via a fraudulent or misleading application. Where an offer has not been responded to within the designated time frame, the Board of Trustees will give the parent a further opportunity to respond and will explain that the offer will be withdrawn if they do not. If any application is found to be fraudulent after a child has started at the school **in the first term of the new academic year**, the school may withdraw the place. If the fraudulent application is found after this time, the student will not be removed.

7. Coordination scheme

The LA will publish a scheme to coordinate admissions arrangements for the normal admissions round and late applications by 1 January in the determination year. The LA will consult with the Board of Trustees in the event that the scheme is changed substantially from the previous year. The LA will also consult with the Board of Trustees and other admissions authorities in the area at least every seven years, even if no changes have been made in that period.

The Board of Trustees is under a legal obligation, as the school's Board of Trustees, to participate in coordination for the normal admissions round, and will provide the LA with all information it needs to coordinate admissions.

8. In-year admissions

The school will follow the same process for in-year admissions as for admissions at the start of the academic year.

The Board of Trustees will publish in-year arrangements on the school website by 31 August each year, detailing how applications will be dealt with between 1 September until the following 31 August. These arrangements will set out how parents can apply for a school place, including whether the Board of Trustees will handle applications or whether the LA will accept these applications on its behalf.

Where the school has places available in--year, it will offer a place to every child who has applied for one without condition or use of oversubscription criteria, unless to do so would be to prejudice the efficient provision of education or use of resources.

The published in-year admissions arrangements will also provide a suitable application form for parents to complete, including 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.

The school will consider all such applications and if the year group applied for has space available, then a place will be offered. If a place is not available, then the child's parent can ask for their child's name to be added to the appropriate waiting list. As with admissions at the start of the academic year, parents whose applications are turned down are entitled to appeal through the process outlined below.

The Board of Trustees will notify all parents within 15 school days of receipt of an in-year application of the outcome of this application. The school will notify the LA of every application and its outcome within two school days or as soon as is reasonably practicable beyond this.

Where an offer is accepted, the school will make arrangements for the student to start as soon as possible.

The Principal is the only person to decide if a student can enter out of their age appropriate year group and will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

9. Waiting list

For admissions at the start of the academic year, the school will operate a waiting list which is maintained until 31 December on year of entry. The list will set out the priority for places in the same order set out in the oversubscription criteria. When additional children are placed on the waiting list, the list will be re-ordered in line with the oversubscription criteria – no student will be prioritised based on when their name was added to the list.

The Board of Trustees will make clear in the admissions arrangements the process for requesting admission outside of the normal age group for the admissions round.

Parents may request that their child is placed on the waiting list if they are not successful in receiving a place. Where a place becomes available, it will be offered to the parents of the child at the top of the list.

For in-year admissions, if there is a waiting list for that year, the child will be placed on a waiting list until a space becomes available, or the child finds a new school setting. The list will set out the priority for places in the same order as admissions at the start of the year – when a place becomes available, it will be offered to the parents of the child at the top of the list.

If a child on the waiting list is offered a position at the school, the parents will be notified by **letter** and will have the option of accepting or rejecting the place within **28 days**.

10. Admissions appeals

In the event of over subscription, any parent has the right of appeal for a place for their son or daughter at Wyedean School.

Appeals for a place at the school should be made in writing to the Trustees' Support Officer at the school address. An appeal hearing to an independent panel will be set up within 40 school days of receipt of the request.

If you have any comments on the criteria for admissions to Wyedean School for September 2025 please email principal@wyedceanschool.com or write to Gwennan Jeremiah, Principal, Wyedean School and Sixth Form Centre, Beachley Road, Sedbury, Chepstow, Gloucestershire, NP16 7AA.

In circumstances where a school place is refused, parents, and in some circumstance's children, will have the right to appeal against a trust's decision to refuse admission.

Where this is the case, the Board of Trustees will establish an independent appeals panel to hear the appeal. The appeal panel will perform its judicial function in a transparent, accessible, independent and impartial manner, and operate according to principles of natural justice.

The Board of Trustees and the appeal panel will ensure that it acts in accordance with this Code, the School Admissions (Appeal Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012, the School Admissions Code, other law relating to admissions, and relevant human rights and equalities legislation, for example, the Equality Act 2010.

The procedures outlined within this section will apply to all appeals lodged on or after 1 October 2022. Appeals lodged on or before 30 September 2022 will be heard in accordance with the 'School Admissions Appeals Code' 2012 and the School Admissions (Appeals Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended.

Timetable

The Board of Trustees will set a timetable for organising and hearing appeals that:

- Includes a deadline for lodging appeals which allows appellants at least **20 school days** from the date of notification that their application was unsuccessful to prepare and lodge their written appeal.
- Ensures that appellants receive at least **10 school days'** notice of their appeal hearing.
- Includes reasonable deadlines for appellants to submit additional evidence, for admission authorities to submit their evidence, and for the clerk to send appeal papers to the panel and parties.
- Ensures that decision letters are sent within **5 school days** of the hearing wherever possible.

The Board of Trustees will publish an appeal timetable on their website by **28 February** each year.

The Board of Trustees will ensure that appeals lodged by the appropriate deadlines are heard within the following timescales:

- For applications made in the normal admissions round, appeals will be heard within **40 school days** of the deadline for lodging appeals
- For late applications, appeals will be heard within **40 school days** from the deadline for lodging appeals where possible, or within **30 school days** of the appeal being lodged.
- for applications for in-year admissions, appeals will be heard within **30 school days** of the appeal being lodged.

Sixth Forms Only

Where the offer of a place would have been conditional upon exam results, appeals will be heard within **30 school days** of confirmation of those results. Where the offer of a place would not have been conditional upon exam results, appeals will be heard within **40 school days** of the deadline for lodging appeals.

Notifying appellants of the right to appeal and the appeal hearing

When informing a parent of their unsuccessful admissions application, the Board of Trustees will send written notification of their decision. This will include:

- The reason why admission was refused.
- Information about the right to appeal.
- The deadline for lodging an appeal.
- Contact details for making an appeal.

Parents will be informed in the letter that, if they wish to appeal, they must make the appeal in writing. The Board of Trustees will not limit the grounds on which an appeal can be made.

The Board of Trustees will provide appellants with written notification of the date and all final arrangements of the appeal hearing no later than **10 school days** before the hearing. This notification will include the deadline for the submission of any further evidence that was not sent in the original appeal.

The Board of Trustees will comply with any reasonable request for information from parents to help them prepare their case for the appeals hearing.

The Board of Trustees will ask appellants whether they intend to call any witnesses or be represented at the hearing and inform them that they may waive their right to **10 school days'** notice of the hearing if they so wish.

Constitution of appeals panels

The Board of Trustees will appoint a clerk to the appeal panel who is independent of the school and the education functions of the trust. The clerk will have sufficient knowledge of the 'School Admission Appeals Code', the 'School Admissions Code', other law relating to admissions and other relevant law, as well as being able to offer advice to enable the panel to undertake its judicial function.

The appeals panel will comprise of a chair and at least **two** other panel members.

The panel will also include at least one lay person **and** one or more people with experience in education.

In accordance with 'The School Admissions (Appeal Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012, the clerk to the panel will ensure that no disqualified person is allowed membership of the panel. A person will be disqualified if they are:

- A member of the LA in whose area the school is located.
- A member or former member of the Board of Trustees of the school.
- An employee at the LA, or the Board of Trustees of the school, other than a teacher or support staff.
- Any person who has, or at any time has had, any connection with the Board of Trustees, school or LA who may not act impartially.
- Any person who has not attended training required by the Board of Trustees arranging the appeals panel.

The Board of Trustees will ensure that panel members and clerks will not take part in hearings until they have received appropriate training as outlined within the 'School Admissions Appeals Code'.

The Board of Trustees will ensure that panel members are independent from the school and will remain independent for the duration of their service.

The chair of the appeals panel is responsible for the conduct of the hearing, including introducing parties, explaining the roles of the clerk and the panel and how the hearing will be conducted, and ensuring that parties have sufficient opportunity to state their case and ask questions.

The Board of Trustees will indemnify the members of the appeals panel against any legal costs and expenses they incur in connection with any decision taken in good faith whilst acting as a member of the appeals panel.

Members of the appeals panel will be eligible to receive travel and subsistence allowances where applicable, and will, where appropriate, be compensated for any loss of earnings or expenses.

Evidence

All evidence relating to the appeal hearing will be passed on to the clerk. This evidence will include details of:

- How the admission arrangements and the co-ordinated admissions scheme apply to the appellant's application.
- Reasons for the decision to refuse admission.
- How the admission would cause prejudice to the education provision of the school.

The clerk will send all the papers required for the hearing to both parties and the members of the panel **seven** days before the hearing.

Attendance and representation

It is the Board of Trustees' responsibility to make arrangements for appeal hearings. Appeal hearings can be held in person, remotely by video conference or a mixture of the two (a hybrid hearing).

Appeal hearings held entirely by telephone will only be permitted where video conferencing cannot be used relating to connectivity or accessibility and if the appellant and presenting officer both agree.

Regardless of the forum chosen, appeal panels will allow appellants the opportunity to make oral representations.

The Board of Trustees will provide a presenting officer to attend the hearing and present the trust's case to the panel, ensuring that this person is a member of staff who is well acquainted with the school.

The presenting officer will be responsible for relaying to the attendees the decision not to admit the child, and answer questions where necessary, either in person or remotely

Appellants may attend in person or be represented by another individual. Where appellants cannot attend, a decision will be made based on the written evidence.

Appeals hearings

Where appeal hearings are held in person, the Board of Trustees will take all reasonable steps to ensure the venue is appropriate, accessible to appellants, and has a suitable area for appellants and presenting officers to wait separately from the panel before and between appeals.

Appeal hearings that are held remotely will be held in such a way that means the appeal is capable of being heard fairly and transparently. Attending parties will be able to present their cases fully and the Board of Trustees will be satisfied that each participant has access to facilities that allow them to engage in the hearing at all times.

Where a hybrid hearing is to take place, the arrangements above will be complied with as appropriate.

Hearings, whether conducted in-person or remotely, will be held in private.

The order of appeal hearings will be as below:

- Case for the Board of Trustees.
- Questioning by the appellant(s) and panel.
- Case for the appellant(s).
- Questioning by the Board of Trustees and panel.
- Summing up by the Board of Trustees.
- Summing up by the appellant(s).

Reaching a decision

When reaching a decision, the Board of Trustees will follow the specific two stage process outlined in section three of the 'School Admission Appeals Code'.

Decisions will be decided by a simple majority of votes cast. If votes are split equally, the chair will make the casting vote. The panel will either uphold or dismiss an appeal and will not uphold an appeal subject to any specified conditions.

To communicate the decision made, the panel will send a letter to the appellant, signed by the clerk or chair of the appeals panel, no later than **five school days** after the decision has been made.

The decision letter will contain clear reasons for the panel's decision and a summary of the relevant factors raised by the parties and considered during the hearing. In the case of applications outside the normal admissions round, the Board of Trustees will ensure that the student is admitted to the school without unnecessary delay.

In cases where there are multiple appeals, the Board of Trustees will ensure that, where possible, all appeals are heard by the same appeals panel with the same members, and that no decisions are made until all the appeals have been heard.

In all hearings the clerk to the panel will ensure that an accurate record is taken of the points raised at the hearing, including the proceedings, attendance, voting and reasons for decisions. These notes will be kept securely by the trust for a minimum of two years and are, in most cases, exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Further appeals and complaints

Appellants will not have the right to more than one appeal in respect of the same school for the same academic year unless, in exceptional circumstances, the LA has accepted a second application from the appellant due to a material change in the circumstances of the parent, child or school but still refused admission. Appellants can apply for a place at the school for a different academic year.

The Board of Trustees will inform parents about their right to complain about maladministration on the part of an appeal panel and the arrangements to follow.

If appellants have an issue with the appeal process, they can complain to the Secretary of State.

11. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Trustees on an **annual** basis. Any changes to this policy will be communicated to all staff and other interested parties.

The next scheduled review date for this policy is **date**.