

## **Admissions arrangements to comply with statutory class size limits**

Parents have a right to express a preference for a place in any school but statutory limits on class sizes mean that, apart from some very limited exceptions, **infant classes of 5, 6 and 7 year olds may not contain more than 30 pupils** with a single teacher. The Admission Authority must consider and decide on applications in accordance with the relevant published admission arrangements, including coordinated admission arrangements.

Admission to an infant class can be refused on "normal prejudice" grounds if the published admission number is lower than 30 (or multiples of 30 resulting in infant classes of less than 30 pupils). However, where the published admission number allows for classes of 30 pupils then admissions can be refused if the admission of another child would breach the infant class size limit and there are no measures the admission authority could take to avoid this without prejudicing the provision of efficient education or efficient use of resources.

## **Appeals**

Where the Admission Authority has refused admission on the grounds that to admit the child would breach the infant class size limit, the circumstances in which an Appeal Panel can uphold an appeal for this age group are **severely limited**,

The Appeal Panel can uphold an infant class size appeal where:

- it finds that the admission of additional children would not breach the infant class size limit; or

- it finds that the admission arrangements did not comply with admissions law or were not correctly and impartially applied and the child would have been offered a place if the arrangements had complied or had been correctly and impartially applied; or

- it decides that the decision to refuse admission was not one, which a reasonable Admission Authority would make in the circumstances of the case.

As there are **very limited circumstances** where an Appeal Panel can uphold an appeal the percentage success rate of infant class size appeals is minimal. In considering whether you wish to appeal in such circumstances you need to be aware that these appeals can **only be upheld** on these limited grounds. Your personal reasons for wanting the school, however strongly you feel, cannot be taken into account unless any of the above circumstances apply. These limited circumstances give very little scope for an Appeal Panel to uphold your appeal.