

NEWSLETTER FOR APPEAL PANELLISTS

Autumn 2009

Edition 1

1. Frequently Asked Questions on Appeals Code 2009

You will find attached to this Newsletter 'Frequently Asked Questions' on the Appeals Code. These are available on the Website www.dcsf.gov.uk/sacode

The frequently asked questions summary sheet does cover many of the concerns that have been raised by either schools, appellants or appeals panel members. If there are any additional questions it may be that we can compile our own 'Clifton Diocese Frequently Asked Questions' sheet. Please do not hesitate to let us know if you have any such questions.

2. Guidance on the New role of Admissions Forums

You will know that the revised School Admissions Code (February 2009) has made changes to the role, membership and reporting procedures of Admissions Forums. It is important that all our Catholic schools and the Diocese have representation on this Forum. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the representation on your local authority Forum on Admissions.

The main changes to the Admission Forum Systems are:

- (i) To change the membership of Admissions Forums to make them smaller and more manageable
- (ii) To change the focus of Admissions Forums so that they consider the fairness rather than the legality of the proposed admission arrangements
- (iii) To simplify regulations for Admission Forum Reports.

Further information can be found on the DCSF website.

3. Infant Class Size Duty

You will be aware that the DCSF have published guidance on Infant Class Size Duty and it is worth appeal panel members reading through this. Again this can be obtained from the DCSF website. I would draw your attention to the following questions which are put in the Infant Class Size Duty documents by the DCSF and this is relevant:

Question

Can a child be a permitted exception for admission to a faith school if there is no other school of that faith within a reasonable distance?

Answer

No. Regulations refer to there being no other schools with places available within a reasonable distance of the child's home which provide a suitable education. Suitable

education means efficient full time education suitable to the child's age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs he/she may have. This does not mean a particular type of school.

Question

Are twins or other multiple birth children classed as permitted exceptions?

Answer

No. Admission Authorities could choose to give these children priority within their published admission arrangements but they are not permitted exceptions.

For further information on Infant Class Size Appeals please, once again, refer to the guidance by the DCSF. This guidance is called 'Managing Compliance with Infant Class Size Legislation'.

4. Forthcoming Training

For all Appeal Panel Members –

Please note that all Members are warmly invited to training on Monday, 9th November at Alexander House, Bristol. Tea and Coffee will be served from 9.30 am. The training for all members will be from 10 am until 1 pm followed by lunch. Those wishing to Chair the Admission Appeals Panels can receive training after lunch from 2 pm until 4.00 pm.

If you wish to attend this training please complete and return the booking form enclosed with this Newsletter.