

# School admissions and appeals update

Local Admissions Forum  
November 2023

# Key updates

- Admissions and appeals pressures
- Timeliness of system for children
- Options under consideration
- Admission arrangements support

# Admissions pressures

- Rise in the number of **in year** preferences being processed year on year with predicted increase again in 2023-24 (figure in final column is year to date only)

	1/4/21-31/3/22	1/4/22-31/3/23	1/4/23-1/9/23
Primary	2871	3581	1717
Secondary	1391	2133	780
Total	4262	5714	2497

# Appeal pressures

- Rise in number of appeals lodged year on year (figure in final column is for first quarter only)

	<b>1/4/2021- 31/3/22</b>	<b>1/4/22-31/3/23</b>	<b>1/4/23- 29/6/23</b>
Primary	237	372	103
Secondary	334	397	276
Total	571	769	379

# Timeliness of system for children

- Rise in number of Fair Access referrals (particularly Primary phase) as parents don't secure a preferred placement following in year moves to Borough
- Rise in number of appeals being lodged and heard
- **Both lead to children being out of school whilst process is followed**

# Options under consideration

- Alternative offers for unsuccessful in year applicants
  - More timely referral to Fair Access through review of FAP
- = Less need for appeals route**
- Inclusion of Social and Medical category from LA determined admission arrangements in future years
- = Parental expectation is managed leading to decrease in appeals**
- Options appraisal of Admissions and Appeals SLA to bring in line with market value and reflect the work being undertaken
- = RMBC service is sustainable and does not penalise schools with lower numbers**

# Admission arrangements support

- RMBC communications to support own admissions authorities through determination timeline
- Bespoke training planned for 6 November 2023- details to follow
- Dedicated Email address  
[admissions.arrangements@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:admissions.arrangements@rotherham.gov.uk)

# Contacts

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