



# Temporary Admission Appeals regulations Extension until 31<sup>st</sup> September

## **Message from the Admissions, Academies Portfolio and School Organisation Division at the DfE (1<sup>st</sup> February 2021):**

As you know, in April 2020 temporary regulations (The School Admissions (England) (Coronavirus) (Appeals Arrangements) (Amendment) Regulations 2020) and accompanying guidance were introduced giving admission authorities, local authorities and admission appeal panels more flexibility when dealing with appeals during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The main changes are that appeal hearings can be heard by telephone or video conference or appeals can be decided on the basis of written submissions only; and the statutory timescales have been amended.

The temporary regulations were due to expire on 31 January 2021 but due to the ongoing nature of the outbreak and the social distance rules, we have introduced another set of temporary regulations (The School Admissions (England) (Coronavirus) (Appeals Arrangements) (Amendment) Regulations 2021) which extend the temporary provisions until 30 September 2021. These came into force on 31 January 2021 and updated guidance has been published. The updates are to reflect the change in date, there are no changes to policy or process.

The temporary regulations and guidance only apply where it is not reasonably practicable to comply with the School Admission Appeals Code for a reason relating to the incidence or transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). Therefore, any extension will not mean the flexibility will be available for all admission authorities to use all the time. It will mean the temporary arrangements are available to use when they are needed – when they are not, the duty to comply with the The Schools Admission (Appeal Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 and the School Admission Appeals Code remains.

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