



Department
for Education

School admissions appeals data collection 2027

September 2026

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1. Summary of Collection

1.1 Scope of this document

This guide provides local authorities with information about the statutory school admissions appeals data collection (also known as APAD) 2027. It is intended to assist local authorities with returning the required data to the Department for Education (DfE, or the department) and provides information on the scope of the collection, the data that should be included in the return, and the mechanism for submission. This guide should be read in conjunction with the relevant [guide](#) to how to use the department's COLLECT web-based system.

1.2 Background to the collection and a summary of recent changes

The data collection collects information about appeals that parents have submitted (or lodged) before 1 September because their child was not admitted to their preferred school. It is a statutory return which covers community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools (including middle-deemed schools). It includes the total number of appeals lodged, the number heard and withdrawn, and the appeal outcomes for each school phase.

Where the information being returned relates to primary schools (or middle deemed or all through schools with infant intake), figures are also required for the number of infant appeals. This will be a subset of the primary appeals figures.

The information will be collected separately from schools who have their own admissions authority (foundation, voluntary aided and academy schools, see below) via the spring school census in January 2027.

The return should only include appeals lodged by the 1 September relating to entry at the start of the school year. For 2027, therefore, local authorities should return information on appeals lodged prior to Tuesday 1 September 2026 relating to entry at the start of the academic year 2026 to 2027 (see sections C and D for further details).

If any community or voluntary controlled school is converting to an academy during the academic year 2026 to 2027, then the local authority should only include that school's appeals if the school will convert after the date of the spring school census (21 January 2027). If the school has already converted by that date, then it should submit its own appeal data via the spring school census. The local authority may need to provide the appeal figures to such recently converted schools to enable them to make their return.

The live period for this collection will run from Monday 11 January to Friday 22 January 2027.

1.3 Uses of the data

The data will be published in the statistical release, [Release home - Admission appeals in England - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#). It will be added to the figures provided by community, voluntary aided and academy schools in the January 2027 spring school census (admissions appeals module) to give a complete picture of the number of appeals lodged, heard and either rejected or found in favour of the parent. The department will also use the appeal and outcome figures and the trends identified as part of a continuing review of admission policies and practice.

2. Important dates

The following are the deadlines for the academic year 2026 to 2027:

- appeal deadline – Tuesday 1 September 2026
- data collection opens – Monday 11 January 2027
- statutory deadline for returns – Friday 22 January 2027

3. Content of the return

A parent has the right of appeal against a decision not to allow their child into a requested school. Appeals can be made when an applicant has not received an offer of a place into their first preference school. They can appeal for a place at any school ranked higher than the one they were offered. Their appeal is submitted to the admissions authority for the school (which is the local authority in the case of community and voluntary controlled schools). The return to be made by local authorities to the department should include the following information about these appeals:

Field name	Description	Additional notes
LANumber	The number of the local authority.	
PrimaryLodged	The total number of appeals lodged against non admission into primary school.	This includes middle deemed primary schools.
PrimaryWithdrawn	Of the primary appeals lodged, the number which were withdrawn before reaching an appeals panel.	To include those withdrawn as a result of the child being offered a place at the school via the waiting list.
PrimaryHeard	Of the primary appeals lodged, the number heard by an appeals panel.	
PrimaryFavour	Of the primary appeals heard, the number which were decided in the parent's favour.	The number decided in the parent's favour plus the number rejected should equal the total number heard.
PrimaryRejected	Of the primary appeals heard, the number which were rejected.	
InfantLodged	The total number of appeals lodged against non admission into an infant class in primary school.	Infant class figures are a subset of those provided for primary schools. The total should include all appeals into an infant class (reception and years 1 and 2), not just those relating to infant class size appeals.
InfantWithdrawn	Of infant class appeals lodged, the number which were withdrawn before reaching an appeals panel.	To include those withdrawn as a result of the child being offered a place at the school via the waiting list.

Field name	Description	Additional notes
InfantHeard	Of the infant class appeals lodged, the number heard by an appeals panel.	
InfantFavour	Of the infant class appeals heard, the number which were decided in the parent's favour.	The number decided in the parent's favour plus the number rejected should equal the total number heard.
InfantRejected	Of the infant class appeals heard, the number which were rejected.	
SecondaryLodged	The total number of appeals lodged against non admission into secondary school.	This includes middle deemed secondary schools.
SecondaryWithdrawn	Of the secondary appeals lodged, the number which were withdrawn before reaching an appeals panel.	To include those withdrawn as a result of the child being offered a place at the school via the waiting list.
SecondaryHeard	Of the secondary appeals lodged, the number heard by an appeals panel.	
SecondaryFavour	Of the secondary appeals heard, the number which were decided in the parent's favour.	The number decided in the parent's favour plus the number rejected should equal the total number heard.
SecondaryRejected	Of the secondary appeals heard, the number which were rejected.	

4. Further details on the information to be included

- a) The local authority must only include appeal figures for their community and voluntary controlled schools. Schools who have their own admissions authority (foundation, voluntary aided and academy schools) will provide their appeal figures separately via the spring school census in January 2027.
- b) This will be the case even for those foundation, voluntary aided or academy schools who contract the local authority to administer their appeals. The local authority may need to provide these schools with the figures they will be submitting.
- c) The local authority must only return data for appeals relating to entry into the academic year 2026 to 2027 that were lodged by parents before 1 September 2026. The date of the hearing can be after 1 September.
- d) Appeals relating to entry into any school year including sixth form year groups should be included, whether the main entry point of the school or another year, as long as the parent was applying for their child to move to the school at the start of the academic year.
- e) Academies will provide their admission appeals data to the department via the spring school census. However, community or voluntary controlled schools that are in the process of converting to an academy during the current academic year should be included in the local authority's return if they will still be under its control on spring school census day (Thursday 21 January 2027).
- f) If the newly converting school will be an academy by 21 January 2027 then it will need to return its own appeal figures via the spring school census. It may need to be provided with the figures by the local authority.
- g) Infant class figures are a subset of primary school appeals and relate to appeals against non-admission into reception class or years 1 and 2. They should include all appeals for those years, not just those relating to infant class size appeals.
- h) The number of appeals withdrawn will include any not pursued, any not yet resolved, and any that the parents have withdrawn from the appeal process as they have been offered a place at the school via the waiting list.

5. Submitting the data

5.1 Methodology

The data should be submitted via [COLLECT](#) (Collections Online - Learners, Education, Children and Teachers) from the department's website. This is the route by which a number of data collections from local authorities and schools are sent securely to the department.

Sections C and D give details of the data which is required to be provided. Once you have generated and checked the data, it should be loaded and submitted in COLLECT.

A separate COLLECT [guide](#) has been published to help schools and local authorities complete and submit data in COLLECT.

5.2 Validation checks

On loading your local authority's data the COLLECT system will automatically run a number of verification checks and you will receive an error notification if any of them fail and the data requires amendment.

If this occurs you will need to correct the errors in the data before you are able to submit the data to the department. Only once the corrections have been made and COLLECT shows no error notices will you be able to submit your data.

You may also receive a query notification to ask you to check certain figures to ensure they are correct – for example, where the values look unusual but could logically still be correct in some situations. If any queries do not require amendments, COLLECT has the functionality for local authorities to add a return level note, specifying that the data has been checked and is correct. Please note that item level notes are no longer supported in COLLECT. Going forward, any explanatory comments or supporting information should be provided as return level notes only.

5.3 Further checks

Additional sense checks will be undertaken by the department and where there are concerns or queries about the figures, the department will contact the local authority concerned to ask for further information. This may result in rejecting the submissions for changes to be made. We will complete these additional checks as soon as possible.

If there is anything about your local authority's data which you think may give the department cause to query the figures, then it would be advisable to enter notes in your COLLECT return. An example of this would be if a number of community or voluntary

controlled schools have converted into academies and therefore their appeals are no longer administered by the local authority.

5.4 Authorisation

For each return, once the data has been checked and accepted by the department the status on COLLECT will change to authorised and your local authority's return will be complete.

5.5 Further assistance

If you have any queries, you can contact the Data Collections Service Desk by submitting a [.service request form](#).

5.6 Enquiries

Any enquiries regarding this publication, before or during the submission period, should be sent to the department via a [data collections service request form](#).

6. Data protection

6.1 Data protection

Data from which it is possible to identify children, parents and staff (in any medium, including within a management information system (MIS)) is personal data.

The UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018) put in place certain safeguards regarding the use of personal data by organisations, including the Department for Education (DfE) and local authorities. Both give rights to those (known as data subjects) about whom data is processed, such as children, their parents / carers and staff. This includes (amongst other information that DfE is obliged to provide) the right to know:

- the types of data being held;
- why it is being held;
- to whom it may be communicated

As data processors and controllers in their own right, it is important that local authorities process all data in accordance with the full requirements of the UK GDPR. Further information on the UK GDPR can be found in the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) overview of the [UK General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\)](#).

6.2 Legal duties under the UK General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018: privacy notices

Being transparent and providing accessible information to individuals about how you will process their personal data is a key element of UK GDPR and the DPA 2018. The most common way to provide such information is through a privacy notice. Please refer to the ICO website for further guidance on privacy notices.

DfE provides suggested wording for privacy notices that local authorities may wish to use. However, where the suggested wording is used, the local authority must review and amend the wording to reflect local business needs and circumstances. This is especially important, as the local authority will process data that is not solely for use within DfE data collections.

It is recommended that the privacy notice is made available to data subjects via the internet as well as handed out in paper form or placed on an accessible noticeboard. Privacy notices do not need to be issued on an annual basis as long as new children or young people, parents and staff are made aware of the notices, and they are readily available electronically or in paper format.

6.3 Legal duties under the UK General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018: data security

Providers and local authorities have a (legal) duty under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 to ensure that any personal data they process is handled and stored securely. Further information on data security is available from the [Information Commissioner's Office](#).

Where personal data is not properly safeguarded, it could compromise the safety of individuals and damage your organisation's reputation. Your responsibility as a data controller extends to those who have access to your organisation's data where they are working on your behalf; for example, where external IT suppliers can remotely access your organisation's information. The '[Guide to data protection](#)' page provides further guidance and advice.

It is vital that all staff with access to personal data understand the importance of:

- protecting personal data
- being familiar with your security policy
- putting security procedures into practice

As such, you should provide appropriate initial and refresher training for your staff.



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