

**ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR PARENTS MAKING AN ADMISSION APPEAL FOR
SKIPTON GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL
WHOSE CHILD HAS NOT BEEN DEEMED SUITABLE FOR A GRAMMAR SCHOOL EDUCATION**

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 These notes are to assist parents where the Academy Trust of Skipton Girls' High School, as Admission Authority, has not been able to comply with parental preference as their child has not been deemed suitable for a Grammar school education. The School is wholly selective on the basis of academic ability and the child's admission would be incompatible with such selection, under the published admission arrangements.

1.2 Skipton Girls' High School is a designated grammar school within North Yorkshire and as such is permitted to select pupils on the basis of academic ability **and places may be left unfilled, if there are insufficient eligible applicants.**

2.0 STATUTORY ADMISSION APPEALS

2.1 All parents/carers have a statutory right of appeal against the refusal of a place for their child at a grammar school for which they have applied, being heard by an independent Admission Appeal Panel, regardless of their eligibility for a grammar school education.

2.2 Admission Appeals for entry into Year 7 in September are held **after** the national offer date (1st March) and therefore, at the date of any admission appeal, it is likely the School will have been allocated up to its Published Admission Number (PAN).

2.3 The Admission Appeal Panel can consider an appeal where the parents/carers believe that their child did not perform to their full potential on the day(s) of the entrance tests. This could be because of medical issues, or other factors – these **must** be supported by parents/carers submitting independent evidence to the Admission Appeal Panel, to support such claims.

2.4 The Admission Appeal Panel can only **uphold** your appeal if it is satisfied:

- that there is evidence to demonstrate that your child is of the required academic standard, for example, School Reports giving Year 5/Year 6 National Curriculum scaled scores to support national curriculum test outcomes and previous SAT results, or a letter of support from their current or previous School clearly indicating why your child is considered to be of grammar school ability; and
- Where applicable, that your parental arguments outweigh the Admission Authority's case that the admission of additional children would 'prejudice' the provision of efficient education, or the efficient use of resources.

2.5 **Please note**, it is the responsibility of the parents/carers to obtain appropriate academic or other evidence to support your claim that your child is suitable for a grammar school education, which will be made available to the Admission Appeal Panel and the Admission Authority representative. This may include asking your child's Headteacher to provide a Report or letter and any relevant additional information about your child in advance of your appeal hearing,

2.6 The Admission Panel will be considering your child's academic performance within their current School; therefore, you **must** be prepared to provide information on this for your appeal hearing. For example, their predicted results in any forthcoming National Curriculum Tests or SATs Tests, Key Stage 1/2 SATs results, the results of any School based attainment tests, or where they are ranked within their Class group. Panel Members may also explore your child's interests outside School.

2.7 Wherever possible, any independent supporting evidence, academic or otherwise, should be submitted in advance of your appeal hearing, ideally with your Admission Appeal Form.

2.8 Head or Class Teachers **do not** attend appeals unless the Admission Authority agrees that there are exceptional circumstances affecting the child concerned (For example, a death in the family)

3.0 OTHER DECISION CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE ADMISSION APPEAL PANEL

3.1 The Admission Appeal Panel **must not** devise its own methods to assess your child’s suitability for a grammar school education unrelated to the evidence provided at the hearing.

3.2 The Admission Appeal Panel will also consider the following matters, in deciding your child’s appeal:

- a) Whether the admission arrangements (including the area’s co-ordinated admission arrangements) complied with the mandatory requirements of the School Admissions Code and Part 3 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998;
- b) Whether those admission arrangements were correctly and impartially applied in your child’s case; and
- c) Whether the admission of additional children to the School would “prejudice” the provision of efficient education, or the efficient use of resources.

3.3 Finally, the Panel will then go on to a ‘balancing’ stage in which it will “balance” the ‘prejudice’ to the School, in admitting one or more additional pupils (if there are other admission appeals for that School being held) against your reasons and the reasons put forward by any other parents/carers for applying for a place at the School.

3.4 It should be noted, however, that even if the Admission Appeal Panel decides there is no “prejudice” to the provision of efficient education, or the use of resources at the School by making additional admissions, an appeal **cannot** be upheld if the Panel has not been satisfied that there was sufficient evidence to show that your child has demonstrated the required academic ability for a grammar school education at Skipton Girls’ High School.

3.5 Please be advised that in your grounds of appeal, you should also include reasons which help you explain to the Admission Appeal Panel why you prefer the School you are appealing for, or why the School allocated would, in your view, be unsuitable for your child.

=====

These Guidance Notes should be read in conjunction with the more detailed ‘Notes for Parents’ (School Admission Appeals) and Group Hearing guidance, which set out the statutory Admission Appeal process.

If you need further clarification of the process you should contact the Appeals Office on 01609 533385 or email appeals@northyorks.gov.uk