

NEWS

# ADMISSIONS: WHAT GRADE DID YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITY GET?

## SCORE CARD

### A GRADE

Most proactively investigate fraud and keep records  
Low appeal rates

LEA	NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS IN PAST THREE YEARS	PERCENTAGE OF PARENTS WINNING ADMISSION APPEAL	PERCENTAGE OF PARENTS APPEALING SCHOOL PLACE
Birmingham	124	4.8%	6%
Wakefield	23	8.3%	4%
Dudley	880	8.5%	4%
Hampshire	23	9.1%	2%
Havering	20	10.1%	5%
Coventry	49	15.8%	5%

### C GRADE

Investigating proactively  
Did not have full records OR had high appeal win rate

LEA	NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS IN PAST THREE YEARS	PERCENTAGE OF PARENTS WINNING ADMISSION APPEAL	PERCENTAGE OF PARENTS APPEALING SCHOOL PLACE
Richmond-Upon-Thames	82 (did not keep records until 2014)	2.7%	3%
Wandsworth	157 (did not keep records until 2014)	8.1%	4%
Calderdale	508 (did not keep records until 2013)	15.8%	4%
Durham	49	54.5%	3%
Kent	72	27.5%	6%
Lincolnshire	41	25.0%	3%
North Yorkshire	34	22.1%	5%

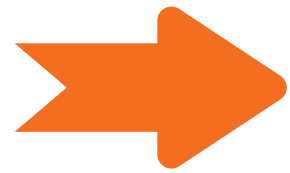
### U GRADE

No proactive investigations or lack of records  
Appeal rate of 6% or more

LEA	NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS IN PAST THREE YEARS	PERCENTAGE OF PARENTS WINNING ADMISSION APPEAL	PERCENTAGE OF PARENTS APPEALING SCHOOL PLACE
Medway	6	25.4%	8%
Darlington	No record held	29.8%	8%
Bury	At least 9	17.8%	8%
Leicester	5	11.5%	8%
Manchester	13	12.4%	7%
Tameside	19	29.6%	7%
Gloucestershire	No record held	29.10%	6%

**NERD BOX: MORE DETAILS ON THOSE GRADES**

Grade A: Councils with 20 or more investigations over three years; three years of fraud data, and an appeal rate under 15 per cent.  
Grade C: Councils with proactive investigation policies but a high appeal win rate  
OR only started recording data in the past two years.  
Grade U: Councils without a proactive approach or formal policy and had an appeal rate of 6% or more.

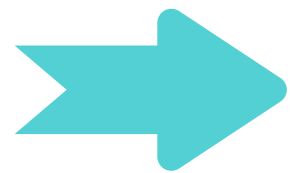


### GRADE A COUNCILS - DUDLEY

**Dudley had the highest number of investigations across the three years, although only ten places were withdrawn as a result.**

The West Midlands council matches up the address on applications with council records for the child.  
Parents have to provide three pieces of evidence to prove where they are living if the records don't match.  
Only 4 per cent appealed against offers

for their children last year and, of those, less than one in ten won their appeal.  
Cllr Ian Cooper, cabinet member for children services, said: "Where our data flags up anomalies we thoroughly investigate to make sure that there is no fraudulent activity and take the appropriate action where it is proven there is."

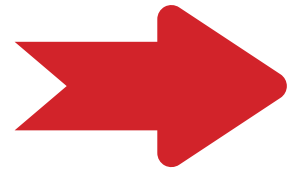


### GRADE C COUNCILS - CALDERDALE

**Calderdale council started keeping records for the number of fraud investigations in the 2013-14 academic year.**

That year it investigated 265 potentially fraudulent applications, with another 243 coming under scrutiny last year.  
The West Yorkshire council's head of service commissioning, Judith Wyllie, said: "Our school admissions team is very proactive in tackling any discrepancies in

application forms."  
It has a similar procedure to Dudley, querying information if an initial address check throws up any discrepancies.  
Ms Wyllie said there were few cases that progressed beyond this stage, which meant issues were clarified well before national offer day.  
Only 4 per cent of parents appealed their place last year.



### GRADE U COUNCILS - BURY

**Bury council does not have a system or procedures in place for detecting fraudulent school admission applications.**

However, a spokesperson said officers "respond robustly" if they received tip-offs of a fraudulent address.  
Eight per cent of parents appealed their place last year – the joint second highest of all authorities – with nearly one in five winning their appeal.

But the council said there was no correlation between the number of fraudulent investigations and the number of appeals. It said a rise could be down to a number of issues including "hotspots" in the borough in which a number of families had moved in.  
It said 2015-16 appeal data for reception places showed that 4 per cent were overturned.

