

APPENDIX 4: Key Changes in the revised Draft Admissions Code
November 2011

Draft Admissions Code	Existing Code
Admission authority schools can increase their admission number by notification only, with no requirement to consult (1.3, 1.4). Objections to increases in admission number can be made by the Local Authority to the Adjudicator only if they believe the arrangement is unlawful, otherwise there is no route to object (3.2, 3.3)	Increasing admission number requires consultation with all admission authorities
LA no longer required to co-ordinate in-year admissions (p2.20). Parents applying for in-year places can apply directly to the school they are interested in, who must notify the LA of the application and its outcome	All in-year applications are made via the LA.
All schools allowed to give priority to children of school staff as an over-subscription criterion in skills shortage or with 2 or more years service (p1.39)	Schools can offer places to children of school staff to aid in recruitment in areas of skills shortages
Additional Infant Class Size limit exempt categories created: (p2.15) Children of military personnel Twins and multiple births	
Requirement to reduce to 30 in an Infant Class with Excepted pupils within 12 months is removed. (p2.15)	Excepted pupils may exceed 30 for 12 months – after this an additional teacher is required if class still over 30
LA no longer allowed to operate area-wide “lottery” method of allocation, although individual school admission authorities can do so (p1.34)	All admission authorities able to use lotteries to allocate places
Required to consult every 7 years. If changes are made must consult – although increasing the admission number does not constitute a change requiring consultation for admission authority schools. (p1.42)	Required to consult every 3 years, or in any year if any change is made including increasing the admission number
Academies and Free schools to be able to use deprivation (FSM) as an oversubscription criterion.(p1.9 footer ²⁷)	
Anyone can object on admissions arrangements to the Adjudicator with some exceptions to the type of objections allowed (p3.3). Deadline on objections on arrangements brought forward to 30 th June each year. (p3.5)	Prescribed list of objectors. Objections to be made by 31 st July.
<i>National Offer Day for primary schools from 2014/2015 (p2.23 of Nov draft Revised code only)</i>	<i>No national offer day</i>
Draft Appeals Code	Existing Code
Parents have 20 days to appeal against admissions decisions (p2.1)	Parents have 10 days to appeal.
“Venue must be appropriate, accessible to appellants, and have a suitable area for appellants and presenting officers to wait separately from the panel before and between appeals.” Schools not specifically barred (p2.13)	Neutral non-school venues must be used.
No maximum time for a panel member to sit on a school panel – “must remain independent for the duration of their service” (p1.6)	Panel members can sit on the same school panel for a maximum of three years
Appeal panel members must have up to date training (not defined) (p1.10)	Panel members must be retrained every two years, with annual updates