

## The Appeal Process

### A HEADTEACHER'S POINT OF VIEW

The results are received by the headteacher before the parents. This is to allow for the headteachers' appeal panel to take place. Headteachers have 48 hours to select children based on results and evidence in books to put forward for appeal to a panel of their peers. A form stating the reasons for the low scores and annotated workbooks are sent.

What I have learnt:

- \* Appeal for pupils who have narrowly missed one test . I generally have more success if their aggregate is greater than the expected total
- \* The reason for the low score isn't important if the child's work does not back up the need for a grammar school place
- \* The way the child's work looks is important—the panel have limited time so work that is easy to read is a bonus !
- \* The child's work needs to show progress and consistent effort
- \* The child needs to be working above age related expected levels
- \* Children who don't get a selective place as a result of a head teacher's appeal can still get a place as a result of a parents appeal

### SUPPORTING PARENT APPEALS

As an executive headteacher I choose to support parent appeals that I agree with by attending with the parents. Below is a summary of the advice I give :

- ⇒ Discuss with your child's teacher/ headteacher whether they support a grammar school place
- ⇒ Name at least one grammar school as a choice but not as your first choice and don't only name grammar schools as you will not be offered a place at one !
- ⇒ Parents need to be happy with their high school option
- ⇒ Prepare child and parent for a long waiting game and a period of uncertainty
- ⇒ Ask the child to use their books to show what they can do—its your second chance
- ⇒ Discuss with the parents the reasons behind the underperformance/ reasons why they feel grammar school education is best for their child—reasons with concrete evidence stack up
- ⇒ Advise parents about the local schools and which I've had more success with at appeal
- ⇒ Collect statements from class teachers etc
- ⇒ Meet with parents to rehearse appeal including answers for usual questions
- ⇒ Encourage honesty and openness
- ⇒ Explain life without levels—its now about working at an exceeding level for their age, expected is average.

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### BAN ON COACHING

**Primary schools cannot prepare children for the 11 plus, in any way. We continue teaching the core subjects which should help. We cannot coach or tutor !**