



Frequently asked questions

Q. Do I have to pay for the appeal?

A. There is no charge to parents for to appeal.

Q. Can I ask the panel to contact anyone, such as my doctor or social worker, to confirm what has been said on my appeal form or at the hearing?

A. No. You are responsible for making sure that the panel has any written supporting evidence at the hearing.

Q. What documents or information can I add to my appeal notice?

A. In your case you can mention all the reasons why Hardenhuish would be the best school for your child, and what specific factors justify your child getting a place. There is no information you cannot include and everything you say or write will be handled in confidence.

Q. How long will the hearing take?

A. This is difficult to say, however, generally for mid-year appeals both stage one and stage two take about half an hour each. In multiple intake, stage one could take forty-five minutes to an hour and stage two about thirty minutes; but it really depends on the complexity of the cases being heard.

Q. Can I bring a friend to the appeal hearing?

A. Yes. You can bring somebody with you either to support you or to speak on your behalf. You must inform the Appeal Clerk to ensure there are no conflict of interests within the appeal hearing.

Q. Do I need to bring my child with me?

A. No, we actually advise against it. Your child may also find the hearing difficult and confusing.

Q. How does the panel reach a decision?

A. The appeal panel reaches a decision in private, by a majority vote. If the panel is considering a large number of appeals, they will not make a decision about an individual case until all parents have had a chance to put their case forward.

Q. Where are the appeals heard?

A. At a suitable and accessible venue in the Chippenham area.

Q. Can I change the date or time of my appeal?

A. We will do our best to accommodate your needs but due to timetabling, statutory timeframes and numbers of appeals being heard on the same day this is not always possible.

Q. What should I do if I change my mind about appealing?

A. If you decide to withdraw your appeal, please let the Appeal Clerk know via email as soon as possible appealsclerk@hardenhuish.wilts.sch.uk or phone – 01249 650693.

Q. My child's name is on the waiting list. Will my appeal affect my child's place on that list?

A. No. If your appeal is unsuccessful your child's name will stay on the waiting list. If you win your appeal your child's name will be removed from the waiting list, and a place offered at Hardenhuish.

Q. Will my child be able to remain on the waiting list, even if the appeal is unsuccessful at this stage?

A. Yes. The waiting list is handed from the LA to the school on 1 September and if places become available throughout the school year they will be offered according to the same oversubscription criteria used for Year 6 into Year 7.

Q. What is the maximum capacity?

A. The maximum capacity of the school is 1561

Q. Does address matter?

A. Yes, as it provides the distance from school as the crow flies, enabling the ranking according to the oversubscription.

Q. Who would get priority if live in the same street but go to a village school?

A. The pupil who attends the village school as per the oversubscription criteria.

Q. How many will get through the process?

A. This is determined by the independent appeal panel and their opinion regarding the strength of the cases presented to them.