



School Standards and Framework Act 1998

1998 CHAPTER 31

PART III

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

CHAPTER I

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

Power to direct admission of child to school

[^{F1}97B Procedure for giving direction under section 97A

- (1) Before deciding to give a direction under section 97A, the local authority shall consult the admission authority for the school they propose to specify in the direction.
- (2) The admission authority for the school shall, within the period of seven days beginning with the day on which they are consulted as mentioned in subsection (1), inform the local authority whether they are willing to admit the child to the school without being directed to do so by the authority.
- (3) Where the local authority decide to give a direction under section 97A specifying a school—
 - (a) they shall, before doing so, serve a notice in writing of their decision on—
 - (i) the admission authority for the school,
 - (ii) if the school is a community or voluntary controlled school and the governing body of the school are not the admission authority, the governing body of the school,

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- (iii) if the school is maintained by a [^{F2}local authority] who are not the authority proposing to give the direction and are not the admission authority, the [^{F2}local authority] who maintain the school, and
 - (iv) the head teacher of the school, and
 - (b) they shall not give the direction until the period for referring the matter to the adjudicator under subsection (4) has expired and, if it is so referred, until the adjudicator has made such determinations under this section as it appears to him to be appropriate to make in connection with the reference.
- (4) The following persons—
 - (a) the admission authority on whom a notice is served under subsection (3)(a)(i), and
 - (b) in the case of a notice relating to a child to whom (at the time of service of the notice) section 87(2) applies, the governing body of a community or voluntary controlled school on whom the notice is served under subsection (3)(a)(ii),
 may, within the period of seven days beginning with the day on which the notice was served, refer the matter to the adjudicator and, if they do so, shall inform the local authority.
- (5) A reference under subsection (4) may only be made on the ground that the admission of the child to the school would seriously prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources.
- (6) If the adjudicator determines that the admission of the child to the school would have the effect mentioned in subsection (5)—
 - (a) the local authority may not give a direction under section 97A that the school admit the child, but
 - (b) the adjudicator may determine that another school in England is to be required to admit the child.
- (7) A determination under subsection (6)(b) may only be made with the agreement of the local authority who look after the child.
- (8) A determination under subsection (6)(b) may not be made if—
 - (a) the child is permanently excluded from the other school, or
 - (b) the admission of the child to the other school would seriously prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources.
- (9) If the adjudicator determines under subsection (6)(b) that another school is to be required to admit the child, then—
 - (a) if the local authority referred to in subsection (1) are the admission authority for that school they shall—
 - (i) admit the child to the school, and
 - (ii) give notice in writing to the governing body and head teacher of the school of the adjudicator's decision, and
 - (b) in any other case, the local authority shall specify that school in their direction under section 97A.
- (10) A direction under section 97A shall be given by notice in writing and a copy of the notice shall be given by the local authority to the head teacher of the school.]

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Textual Amendments

- F1** Ss. 97A, 97B inserted (8.1.2007) by Education and Inspections Act 2006 (c. 40), **ss. 50(1)**, 188(3); S.I. 2006/3400, art. 3(c)
- F2** Words in Act substituted (5.5.2010) by The Local Education Authorities and Children's Services Authorities (Integration of Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/1158), art. 1, **Sch. 2 para. 10(2)** (with Sch. 2 para. 10(4))

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 14(3)(aa) inserted by [2011 nawm 7 s. 16\(2\)](#) (Amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#) - s.16(02) of 2011 nawm007 omitted by 2013 nawm001 s. 100(4), Sch. 5 para. 13(2); S.I. 2014/178, art. 2(f) (with art. 3) prior to commencement)
- s. 18B inserted by [2011 nawm 7 s. 16\(3\)](#) (Amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#) - s.16(02) of 2011 nawm007 omitted by 2013 nawm001 s. 100(4), Sch. 5 para. 13(2); S.I. 2014/178, art. 2(f) (with art. 3) prior to commencement)
- Sch. 22 para. 5(1B) inserted by [2023 c. 55 s. 235\(4\)](#)