

Admission Appeal Panel Member Testimonials

I find being an admission appeals panel member very interesting and rewarding. I feel I am playing an important role in the community and it is my way of giving something back. No two appeals panels are the same and you get to meet lots of interesting people. It also gives you an insight into educational provision in Reading.

I have had the privilege and pleasure to be an admission appeals panel member for 9 years. The role can be challenging but excellent training is given. Panel members become involved with considering the wishes of parents for their child's education and the needs of the child.

What do I like about being an admission appeals panel member? I feel I am being useful and using my skills. I have met new and interesting people whilst carrying out an important and enjoyable voluntary role and have been provided with excellent training. Every case is different, so there is a good variety of situations to be involved with. Above all, I feel I am making a difference to the lives of children and young people.

Volunteering as an admission appeals panel member has allowed me to give back to the educational community in which I spent my whole working life as well as to the local community which I love. I enjoy the opportunity to use my existing experience, knowledge and skill set as well as to develop new skills. Together with good communication, team work, problem solving and the adaptability required when carefully listening to all parties involved as well as the ability to evidence decision making, this all provides for a rewarding and highly worthwhile experience.

I volunteered for the role as it fits in well around other things that I do. I have found the role both interesting and fulfilling as I enjoy meeting new people, giving their concerns a full hearing and ensuring they are treated fairly and sympathetically. I would highly recommend it to anyone who has a little spare time and a similar interest in filling an important community role.

I started volunteering on admission appeals panels when my children were very young because I thought I could learn more about our education system and the work is during the day term time only. I am still involved 8 years on - I think it's a privilege to help children and families in this way and I've met interesting and friendly people on the panels too.

Recently retired, I wanted to spend some time doing something different and where I could make a difference in some small way. This role has fulfilled my wish. I can choose the days I am available and panel members receive high quality training and are supported by a great team. I have really enjoyed being part of the admission appeals process.

Being an admission appeals panel member has provided me with a unique insight into the education system and given me the opportunity to contribute regarding children's schooling. As a retired person, it has allowed me to give something back and work alongside people from a variety of backgrounds.

Volunteering as an admission appeals panel member is challenging but fulfilling and interesting. It gives a good insight into some of the difficulties faced by both schools and parents over school admissions and provides an opportunity to make fair and considered decisions within the clear structure of the school admissions framework.

I was attracted to serving on admission appeals panels based on my previous experience of supporting people coming to court to give evidence. Parents are advocating for their child's educational future.

It has given me the opportunity to work with other like minded dedicated people and admission appeals provide an important opportunity for parents with any concerns about their school application to have the process tested by an independent admission appeals panel.

Being an admission appeals panel member has been an eye opener and you can at times feel responsible for bringing about a positive and much needed change in a child's life. Other panel members and the appeals clerks have been very helpful throughout the two years I have been involved with appeals.
