



This is regarding applications for school places that have been made/are suspected to be made using fraudulent information:

1. Does the council have a system/procedures for detecting fraudulent school admission applications? If so, please provide details of what these are. Please include if any new procedures have been introduced in the past few years.

For children starting primary school our policy is that following national offer day, parents will be asked to provide two forms of evidence of what their address was on the closing date for applications which was 15 January. We only ask parents to provide this evidence if the school allocated is oversubscribed and the child was offered a place based on where they live. This process was introduced in 2024. Prior to 2024 we would select a number of oversubscribed schools to carry out address checks.
2. How many applications have you investigated on suspicion of being fraudulent in the past three academic years? (2023-24 / 2022-23 / 2021-22)

2023/24 – 4 applications
2022/23 – 0 applications
2021/22 – 0 applications.
3. How many of these applications were found to be fraudulent? Please break this figure down by primary/secondary schools, if this is possible.

2023/24 – 3 applications
2022/23 – 0 applications
2021/22 – 0 applications.
4. For the fraudulent applications, please include further details of what the offence was / which school the application was for / and what the outcome of the investigation was. (Please include as much details about the offences as is possible.)

Application 1 – the address used by the family was not their permanent address, they used an address they planned on moving to. Place withdrawn from a Primary School

Application 2 – The family applied from a relative's address, following investigation the family were residing at different property. Place withdrawn from a Primary School.

Application 3 – The family applied using a relative's address, following investigation the family were residing at a different property. Place withdrawn from a Primary School.

Applications 4 – Address used was a relative's address, however this was the family's permanent address and they did not have any other address. The place remained allocated at the Primary School.

5. Overall, how many fraudulent applications for each year were
- a. Not accepted?
 - b. Resulted in a child being removed from school after application found to be fraudulent?
6. Please include the number of fraudulent applications that led to appeals by parents, and the number of appeals that won.
7. Did any of these offences result in prosecution? If so, please provide details.
- A) 3 applications, B) 0 applications are investigated and places withdrawn prior to admission being arranged
- Out of the 3 applications where the place offered was withdrawn only 2 of these applications appealed the refusal. Both of these appeals were unsuccessful.
- No