



**Circular No. 0069/2020**

**To: The Managerial Authorities of Recognised Primary, Secondary,  
Community and Comprehensive Schools  
and the Chief Executives of Education and Training Boards**

**NEW ARRANGEMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR APPEALS UNDER SECTION  
29 OF THE EDUCATION ACT 1998  
EFFECTIVE FROM 12 NOVEMBER 2020 ONWARDS**

**1. Purpose of the circular**

The Minister for Education and Skills wishes to bring to the attention of school authorities the forthcoming commencement of new arrangements for appeals under section 29 of the Education Act 1998.

The new appeal arrangements will apply to appeals made from **12 November 2020** onwards.

**2. New arrangements and procedures for appeals**

Section 7 of the Education (Admissions to Schools) Act 2018 has provided for the replacement of the existing Section 29 of the Education Act 1998 with a series of new sections numbered 29 to 29F. These new appeal provisions in sections 29 to 29F are designed to work alongside the wider admissions framework in the 2018 Act and will come into operation from 12 November 2020 onwards.

Following consultation with the education partners and in accordance with section 29B of the Education Act 1998, the Minister has also determined the following procedures for appeals which will apply from 12 November 2020 onwards -

- Procedures for appeals in relation to refusal to admit a student to a school, where the decision to refuse admission is due to the school being oversubscribed

- Procedures for appeals in relation to refusal to admit a student to a school where the decision to refuse admission is due to a reason other than the school being oversubscribed
- Procedures for appeals in relation to permanent exclusion of a student from a school or suspension of a student from attendance at a school for a period or periods totalling not less than 20 school days in a school year

The procedures are available on the Department's website along with a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document to assist with queries in relation to the new procedures. The FAQ document will be updated from time to time as required

### **3. Circulation and Queries**

A copy of this circular should be provided to all members of the board of management and the staff of each school. A copy should also be provided to the parents association.

This circular may be accessed on the Department of Education and Skills' website at [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie). An Irish version of this circular is also available on the Department's website.

Enquiries regarding this circular should be emailed to the Department at:

[Section29@education.gov.ie](mailto:Section29@education.gov.ie)

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