

SCHEDULE 4

Regulation 15(1)

THE BALLOT INFORMATION CODE

1. The principles specified in paragraph 2 shall apply in providing material for parents relating to a petition or ballot.
2. Material provided:
 - (a) should provide information which is as factual and accurate as possible, with a view to helping parents to reach a soundly-based decision about whether grammar schools should, or should not, retain selective admission arrangements;
 - (b) insofar as it offers opinions, predictions or views, it should do so on the basis of fact or a reasonable interpretation of fact; and should clearly distinguish between what is fact and what is opinion or prediction;
 - (c) should be objective and explanatory, seeking to clarify the issues without omitting important facts or arguments, and without selecting facts or arguments in such a way as to distort or mislead;
 - (d) should not be likely to cause alarm, concern or offence;
 - (e) should not in content, tone or presentation be party political;
 - (f) should not attack the views of individuals or of groups taking a different view of the future of selective admission arrangements at grammar schools.
3. The following standards should be observed at meetings for parents and in other open debate:
 - (a) if meetings about the future of grammar school selective admission arrangements are arranged for parents, they should be publicised, as far as is reasonable, to all those with an interest;
 - (b) the presentations should, taken together, provide an overall picture which is balanced, fair and unbiased;
 - (c) oral information should be accurate and should not mislead the audience;
 - (d) comments on, or responses to, the policies of central and local government should be objective, balanced, informative and accurate.