



Appealing to the Special Educational Needs Tribunal

If the Local Authority names a school which you do not consider appropriate or if the statement does not truly reflect your child's difficulties or give them the provision they need, you can appeal to a tribunal. You may work closely with the NDCS or, if you prefer, an Educational Lawyer. You will also be supported by Mary Hare School. We will help you to prepare to put your case before the independent tribunal panel, who can order the Local Authority to amend the statement, if they find in your favour.

While it is not without its challenges, the tribunal is designed for ordinary families like you and is kept as informal as possible, considering the seriousness of its role. Your child does not need to attend unless you wish them to.

If you have any concerns about a tribunal please contact Debbie Benson at Mary Hare School and if she cannot answer your question, she will find someone who can.

On the British Justice website in the Special Educational Needs & Disabilities section (under Appeals) you will find a parent's guide called 'How to appeal against a SEN decision' with subtitled video clips explaining the tribunal process (you can order a sign supported version if you require).

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/send/appeals>

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/send/appeals/video-guide>