

MODULE 9

Why Cases Do Not Progress

Spot the pattern before you submit

Living our values every day



Accountable



Integrity



Empower



Respect



Excellence



Why this matters

Most declined cases fail for a recurring, preventable reason.



Remember this

“A declined case usually comes down to a short list of recurring, preventable issues. Learn the list, check against it, and many avoidable rejections can be prevented.”



What good looks like

- Review the paperwork checklist ahead of making requests
- Know the common rejection reasons and check against them
- Run 'Would this stand up in court?' before every request
- Use the model case for structure and standard, not to copy wording that doesn't fit; correct weak submissions before sending



Common mistakes

- No chronology, or no threshold evidence
- Generic support; no dates or names
- Missing signatures; wrong parent structure; hearsay
- Exhibits not labelled or referenced; no escalation reasoning
- Feedback not actioned; inappropriate cases submitted anyway



In practice

- Weak: no chronology, generic support, hearsay, unlabelled exhibits
- Strong: dated chronology, specific support, factual statement, labelled exhibits

Independent schools: The rejection patterns are the same for independent schools; only the legal route (s444(1A)) differs.

Your takeaway

Common rejection library + “Would this stand up in court?”

Diagnose with the library; confirm with the court check. A complete submission lets the local authority act quickly for the child.



Before you submit

“Would this stand up in court?”

Offence proven · chronology clear · escalation justified · every line fact.

