

Consultation on Admissions Policy

The Academy is consulting on the following proposed changes to its admissions policy from September 2020.

Removal of Post-16 (sixth form)

Dixons Academies Trust will be opening a sixth form Academy and, consequently, the Post-16 at Dixons City Academy will close in July 2020.

Amendment of Published Admission Number

As a consequence of the closure of the Post-16, the published admission number (PAN) for Year 7 will increase to 180 for the September 2020 intake, and for each subsequent Year 7 intake.

Performing Arts places

As a result of the increase of the PAN, the number of performing arts places will rise to 18. This is in line with the maximum of 10% of places which can be allocated to pupils who demonstrate an aptitude in this specialism.

Consultation period and comments

The consultation lasts until Friday 25th January 2019 and we invite comments both from existing parents and other interested parties.

To view the proposed Policy, please visit the following webpage:

<http://www.dixonsca.com/admissions>

Those who do not have access to the internet can collect a paper copy from the Academy's Reception or request a copy to be sent to them by post.

Comments on the proposed policy should be made in writing by **Friday 25th January 2019** and should be addressed to Sir Nick Weller, CEO

Comments can be sent by:

e-mail to: admissions@dixonsca.com

post: Admissions, c/o Dixons McMillan Academy, Trinity Road, Bradford, BD5 0JD

For proposed policy please see following page



Policy Documentation

Admissions and appeals for the admission year 2020-21

Responsibility for review: Executive Principal

Date of next review: October 2019

Consultation period: December 2018 – January 2019

Admissions

Statement of Policy

The Academy is committed to:

- admitting an intake, reflecting all communities and the whole range of ability;
- resolving a situation where there are many more applications than places available;
- providing a consistency of approach in a potentially extremely emotive area;
- demonstrating that we are applying our oversubscription criteria equally and fairly;
- ensuring that children with Special Needs and vulnerable children are not treated less favourably than other applicants;
- working collaboratively with South Bradford Schools to improve behaviour and reduce exclusions by agreeing to the Fair Access Protocol.

The aims are:

- to ensure that places are awarded fairly and openly;
- to ensure that all prospective parents/students are aware of the admissions procedures;
- to guarantee that all legitimate applications will be processed efficiently and within an agreed time span;
- to demonstrate that our procedures comply with the School Admissions Code;
- to provide an appropriate Appeal procedure for those who are dissatisfied with the outcome of their applications.

Procedures for Year 7 entry

The admission arrangements are:

- a) There are 180 places available.
- b) Applications for places at the Academy will be made in accordance with the local authorities Coordinated Admission Scheme, as published on local authorities' websites and in Bradford Local Authority's booklet "A guide for parents about admission arrangements to Secondary Schools". Where the Academy receives more applications than places available, the oversubscription criteria for admission will apply.
- c) Applications have to be made on both the Common Application Form (CAF) provided by local authorities **and** the Dixons supplementary form which can be completed online, or obtained directly from the Academy or from Bradford Local Authority's website. There will be a strict deadline for return of the supplementary form; forms received by this deadline will be considered first.

Oversubscription criteria

The Academy will admit up to 180 children in the relevant age group each year if sufficient applications are received. All applicants will be admitted if 180 or fewer apply.

If the Academy is oversubscribed, after the admission of children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan, where the Academy is named, priority for admission will be given to those children who sit the assessment and who meet the criteria in the order set out below:

- a) Looked-after children or children who were previously looked-after e.g. because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangement or special guardianship order. (See note 1 for a definition of the term looked-after child.)
- b) Children who have *exceptional* social or medical need, supported by a written recommendation from the child's paediatrician/consultant or a professional from Children's Services. The recommendation must explain why the school is the only suitable school to meet the child's needs and why no other school could provide the appropriate support for the child.

Allocation of a place will be decided based on the information received and the outcome will be advised to parents before the end of December. See note 2 for how to apply.

- c) Eighteen places will be awarded to children who show a particular aptitude for Performing Arts.
- d) Up to three children of staff who have been in post for at least two years or to staff recently appointed to a post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. See note 3 for how to apply.
- e) Children whose siblings at the time of application are within Years 7 to 10 at the Academy and who live at the same address (see note 4 for a definition of sibling).
- f) Children who are currently on roll at Dixons Music Primary (see note 5).
- g) All other children. Places will be decided by using a random number generator programme. Where a child is allocated a place and they have a sibling/s (brothers or sisters) applying for the same year group, the sibling/s will also be offered a place/s (see note 6).
- h) Children whose parents did not return/complete a supplementary form by the advertised deadline but named the Academy on the CAF, in the order set out above.

If demand exceeds places at points d), e) and f), the decision of who will be offered the place will be made by using a random number generator programme.

Notes

1. A looked-after child is a child who is in the care of the local authority, or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (as defined in the Children Act 1989).
2. Applications must be in the form of a letter to the Governing Body of the Academy, sent via the Admissions Officer, and accompanied by the supporting information described above.
3. Applications must be in the form of a letter or e-mail sent to the Admissions Officer, stating the name, post, and length of service of the member of staff and the child's name and date of birth.
4. In addition to brothers and sisters, the term sibling includes legally adopted or fostered children, and step- and half-brothers or sisters *living at the same address*. Please note that we are heavily oversubscribed and we cannot always guarantee to offer a place to every sibling.

5. Children must be on roll at the time of allocations and continue to be on roll until the end of Year 6. Please note that we are heavily oversubscribed and we cannot always guarantee to offer a place to every applicant.
6. Where twins and triplets or siblings (brothers or sisters), are applying for the same year group and one sibling gains a place, the other sibling/s will be promoted within the ability band/s for a place. Where only one place remains, a place/s will be offered to the other sibling/s above admission number.

Admitting children of all abilities

Our intake is representative of the full ability range and exactly matches the ability profile of the children applying.

To achieve this, all applicants by the deadline are invited to take a non-verbal reasoning assessment to divide them into 9 ability bands or “stanines”, from Band 1 at the bottom up to Band 9 at the top. We will admit the required number from each band based on the spread of ability of those applying.

The assessment is externally set by a well-respected educational assessment agency and the papers are collected by the agency to be marked. The Academy is then provided with a list of each child’s assessment mark, similar to an IQ score, with 100 being the average. The marks are divided into nine bands and we are instructed how many children to take from each band e.g. if 20% of those applying are identified in band 5, then 20% of our intake has to be from this band. This ensures that the 180 places we offer reflect the ability range of our applicants.

The likelihood of being offered a place at the Academy is the same in every band.

The assessment is not a traditional entrance exam which children either pass or fail. It is done to ensure that we take a fair number of children across the whole ability range.

Performing Arts places

There are eighteen places (10% of our intake) available each year for children who demonstrate a particular aptitude for performing arts.

To apply for one of these places parents must complete the Supplementary Form, including the Performing Arts page, and return it to the Academy by the deadline.

All applicants for these places will be required to attend workshops and, if they opt to apply for a chosen specialism, an audition, in order to be considered for one of these places.

Children who are not offered a performing arts place will still be considered for one of the remaining places, along with all other applicants.

Calendar for admission

Mid-July 2019

Dixons’ supplementary form available online, for download from the Academy website, or as a paper copy from Reception.

September 2019

An Open Evening will be held.

Monday 23rd September 2019 – 3.30pm

Deadline for receipt of the supplementary form.

Saturday 12th October 2019

Non-verbal reasoning assessment for all applicants whose supplementary forms are received by the deadline.

Wednesday 16th & Thursday 17th October 2019

Performing Arts process for all applicants who apply for Performing Arts and whose supplementary forms are received by the deadline. Applicants will be allocated a half-day session on one of the above dates.

Where possible, and in line with the School Admissions Code, parents will be informed of the outcome of the Performing Arts application prior to the local authorities CAF deadline.

31st October 2019

Deadline for submission of the local authorities' common application form (CAF).

Deadline for receipt of any documentation in relation to applications under exceptional social or medical need or applications for children of staff.

1st March 2020

Local authorities write with offers made to parents for all schools in their schemes.

In the event of oversubscription, those children who cannot be offered a place will automatically remain on the waiting list at the Academy until the end of December.

Waiting lists and appeals

In-year admissions – September 2020

- There are 180 places in year 7.
- There are 165 places in years 8 to 11.

Vacancies rarely occur, but where they do, places are not offered based on the length of time names have been on the list. They are filled in coordination with the local authorities and in line with the oversubscription criteria stated above. It is, therefore, possible that a child may be added to the list who qualifies higher within the criteria than children already on the list. Wherever possible, places are also filled on a like-for-like basis (as determined by the non-verbal reasoning assessment) based upon the ability band of the child who is leaving.

Applications should be made on the local authority's 'In Year Common Application Form' (ICAF) which needs to be returned directly to the local authority. On receipt of an ICAF the authority will send a copy of this to the Academy, and then respond to advise you if a place is available or not.

Waiting lists

If your child is not offered a place at the Academy for Year 7, your child's details will automatically remain on the waiting list until the end of December i.e. one term after the start of the year. You will need to contact the Academy in January to ask for your child's details to be transferred to the new waiting list.

For in-year applications, the details will remain on the waiting list until the end the academic year (July). You will need to contact the Academy when the waiting list ends to ask for your child's details to be transferred to the new waiting list.

Because we work in coordination with the local authority, you will also need contact them each term to remain on their waiting list.

When places become available they will be filled as described above.

Fair access protocol

All local authorities must have a Fair Access Protocol, which the Academy is required to be part of, to ensure that access to education is secured quickly for children who have no school place. Children who are dealt with under the protocol are likely to be the most vulnerable or present challenging behaviour and who cannot reasonably be managed through the normal admissions process. Children admitted through the protocol may be placed into a year group which is full and will take precedence over other children on the waiting list. It is the local authority's decision to determine which children are dealt with by the protocol and the Academy is obliged, as are other schools within the district, to admit a proportion of these children.

Appeals

If you are dissatisfied with the admission decision, you will have the right of appeal. The Appeals Panel is independent of the Academy. The Panel's decision is final and binding on the Academy. If you are considering an appeal, please contact the Appeals Coordinator for further information.

Tel: 01274 424350 – please ask for the Appeals Coordinator

E-mail: appeals@dixonsacademies.com