

Admissions - Frequently Asked Questions

I have applied to more than one Dixons academy, will my child need to sit the assessment at each academy?

No, your child only needs to sit the assessment once. The score from the assessment they are sitting today will be used to consider them for both Dixons City and Dixons Kings academies.

If my child does very well / less well in the assessment, will this affect their chance of a place?

No, the number of places in each ability band reflects the number applying in each band meaning that every child has a chance at a place regardless of their score on the assessment.

Even if a child does not do well on the day of the assessment, they should not feel like they have failed. If they are not offered a place, it will simply be because their application has not ranked high enough on the list.

I now want to apply to another Dixons academy but I don't think I have ticked this on the supplementary form; what should I do?

Please note that the supplementary form is only used for Dixons City and Dixons Kings, we cannot add other Dixons academies to the supplementary form.

If you want to add either of these two academies, you can send an e-mail to: admissions@dixonsca.com or you can telephone the Admissions Team on 01274 089780 – option 7.

What is the likelihood of a place?

Because of the high number of applications received each year, we cannot offer places to everyone who applies. We consider all applicants equally and fairly in line with the oversubscription criteria. For Dixons City and Dixons Kings, there were over 1100 applications this year and there are only 340 places in total across the two academies. Regrettably this means not everyone who wants a place will be offered one. This is why it is important to list other schools on the CAF / CPF (see below).

Do I need to list Dixons as a preference on the Common Application / Preference Form (CAF / CPF)?

Yes, you must list any of the Dixons' academies you are applying to on your local authority / council Common Application / Preference Form (CAF / CPF). This is because the local authority can only allocate a place at a school if you list it as a preference.

Does it matter what preference order I list Dixons academies on the CAF / CPF?

You should list schools in your **genuine** order of preference. It does not matter to us what order you list the academies because we do not see that information; the list we receive from the local authority only states who has applied, not what preference the academy has been listed. This means that all applications are considered, not just those that list it as their first preference.

A child may rank high on the list for more than one of the schools applied for. If this happens the local authority look at the order of the preferences and allocate the child to whichever of those schools has been listed highest.

We live in a different local authority; should I list Dixons on their CAF / CPF?

Yes, any Dixons academies you are applying for should be listed on their CAF / CPF. Your local authority and Bradford local authority exchange details on any children who are applying to schools / academies in other areas.

My child has shared residence at two addresses; which one should I apply from?

Whichever address you decide to apply from, it should be the same on both the Dixons supplementary form and the local authority's CAF / CPF.

I am thinking about listing only Dixons academies on my CAF / CPF; is that advisable?

It is unlikely that a child would qualify highly enough for a place at all the Dixons' academies, especially those that admit using a distance or catchment area criterion. For example, an application is unlikely to qualify on distance for both Dixons Trinity / Dixons McMillan and Dixons Allerton / Dixons Cottingley.

Both Dixons and the local authority recommend that you use at least one preference (even if it is your 5th preference) for a school which you could reasonably expect to qualify for. For example, one that you are in the catchment area for or one that admits by distance that you very live close to.

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We also advise parents to consider how far they live from each of the Dixons' academies and whether their child can travel easily to and from those academies. If your child is offered a place at one of the Dixons academies, you will not be able to swap that offer for a place at another Dixons.

Is applying for an over-subscribed Dixons academy a waste of an option on my CAF / CPF?

If you live a long way away from an academy that admits children based on distance (Dixons Allerton, Dixons Cottingley, Dixons McMillan, Dixons Trinity) and your child does not qualify under higher oversubscription criteria (e.g., sibling criterion), then your chances of a place are likely to be lower than those who live close to the academy.

However, if you are applying for an academy that uses random allocation (Dixons City and Dixons Kings), then listing the academy as a preference will not affect your chances of securing a place at any other academy / school because the local authorities operate an equal-preference system.

If we live close to one of the academies will we have more chance of a place?

Dixons City does not operate a catchment area or distance rule, therefore, if you live close to this Academy it will not improve your chances of a place. All applicants will be considered regardless of where they live. Places are decided by applying the oversubscription criteria which includes random allocation (see next section).

Dixons Kings has an inner and outer catchment area with 55% of applications being allocated to the inner area (BD7 postcode) and 45% of applications being allocated to the outer area (postcodes BD1 to 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 18). Places are not allocated based on how close you live to the Academy but are decided by applying the oversubscription criteria which includes random allocation (see next section).

Dixons Allerton, Dixons McMillan, and Dixons Trinity operate a distance rule. Dixons Cottingley has a priority area, and children living in that area have a higher chance of admission, but it also admits children who live outside of the priority area. The closer you live to these schools the higher your chances are of being offered a place.

How is it decided which academy / school my child is allocated a place at?

For Dixons City and Dixons Kings academies, we run a separate random number process for each academy. Each child will, therefore, have a different random number for each academy. We then split the applications into ability bands and, for Dixons Kings, into inner and outer areas. The oversubscription criteria* are then applied, and this decides the order of the list for each band.

For Dixons Cottingley, applications in the priority area are ranked above applications outside of the priority area. The oversubscription criteria* are applied to the list of applications, and this decides the order of the list.

For Dixons Allerton, Dixons McMillan, and Dixons Trinity, the distance of the home address to the academy is considered. The oversubscription criteria* for each Academy are applied to the list of applications, and this decides the order of the list.

We then send the lists to the local authority, and they then allocate places according to preference, working down each list until all the places have been filled. Anyone who is not offered a place is kept on the waiting list in case any places are not accepted.

If the local authority cannot allocate a place at the first preference school (because the child did not rank highly enough on the list), they will try to allocate a place at the second preference. If they cannot be allocated to the second preference (again, because the child did not rank high enough on the list), they will try to allocate to the third preference, and so on.

If you only put 1 or 2 schools down, and you are not ranked high enough for a place at that / those schools, the local authority (who must allocate every child a place) will have to allocate a school with a spare place, and this school may be a long way from your home address.

* For details of the oversubscription criteria for each of the Dixons' academies, please read the information on the Admissions page of the academies' websites.

Do you have feeder schools or take a set number of children from each primary school?

Pupils attending Dixons Music Primary have priority (after siblings) for a place at Dixons City, Dixons McMillan, and Dixons Trinity academies.

Pupils attending Dixons Manningham and Dixons Marchbank have priority (after siblings) for a place at Dixons Allerton, Dixons City, Dixons Cottingley, Dixons Kings, and Dixons McMillan academies and we admit up to 24 children to each of these academies.

We do not have a set number of places for children attending any other primary schools.

Do you have a set number of places to be allocated to each gender or ethnicity, or a postcode area?

No, the random process (used for Dixons City and Dixons Kings only) is blind to these factors and they do not form part of the oversubscription criteria.

Please watch the presentation available at <https://www.dixonsca.com/admissions/admissions-presentation> for more information about the admissions process.

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Performing Arts applications for Dixons City Academy

Will my child still be considered for a place if they are not allocated one of the eighteen performing arts places?

Yes, they will still be considered under the random allocation process and any other oversubscription criteria that is applicable to their application.

If my child is not allocated a place, will they still be able to take part in performing arts lessons/clubs?

Yes, all Year 7 students take lessons in music and drama. They will also have the opportunity to take part in drama and music groups and can choose to take music lessons if they would like to learn an instrument.

