

Admissions & Appeals policy for the admission year 2024-25

Responsibility for review: Executive Principal

Date of next review: October 2023

Last consultation period: 28 November 2021 – 9 January 2022

Determined by: Trust Board – 12 January 2023

Admissions

Statement of Policy

The Academy is committed to:

- admitting a city-wide intake reflective of 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 emotive area
- demonstrating that we are applying our oversubscription criteria equally and fairly
- ensuring that children with special educational needs, disabilities, and vulnerable children are not treated less favourably than other applicants
- working collaboratively with all schools within the local authority to improve behaviour and reduce exclusions by participating in the writing of and adhering to the Fair Access Protocol

The aims are:

- to ensure that places are awarded fairly and openly
- to ensure that parents 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 which complies with the School Admission Appeals Code

Procedures for Year 7 entry

The admission arrangements are:

- a) There are 180 places in Year 7.
- b) Applications for places at the Academy will be made in accordance with the local authorities Coordinated Admission Scheme, as published on Bradford local authority's [website](#) and in the authority's "A guide for parents about admission arrangements for Secondary Schools". Where the Academy receives more applications than places available, the oversubscription criteria will apply.
- c) Applications must be made on both the Common Application / Preference Form (CAF / CPF) provided by local authorities **and** the Dixons supplementary information form (SIF) which can be completed online, obtained as a paper copy directly from the Academy, or downloaded from the Academy's website or Bradford Local Authority's website. There will be a strict deadline for return of the SIF; forms received by the deadline will be considered first.

Oversubscription criteria

The Academy has an agreed admissions number of 180 children for entry in Year 7. The Academy will accordingly admit up to 180 children in the relevant age group each year if sufficient applications are received. All children will be admitted if 180 or fewer apply.

If the Academy is oversubscribed, after the admission of children with 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. See note 1 for a definition of these terms.
- 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 Academy is the *only* suitable school to meet the child's needs and why *no other school* could provide the appropriate support for the child.

Prioritisation will be decided based on the information received and parents will be informed if the application meets this criterion 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.



Where possible, parents will be informed if their child's application is being prioritised under this criterion, prior to the local authorities CAF deadline.

- d) Up to 3 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 live at the same address, currently attend the Academy, and will continue to do so on the date of admission (see note 4 for a definition of sibling).
- f) Children who are currently on roll at Dixons Music Primary in Year 6 (see note 5).
- g) Up to 24 children who are currently on roll at Dixons Manningham or Dixons Marchbank academies in Year 6 (see note 5).
- h) All other children. Places will be decided by using a computerised random number generator programme (see note 6).
- i) 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 (see note 6).

If demand exceeds places at points d), e), f), g) and i) the decision of who will be offered the place will be made by using a computerised random number generator programme (see note 6).

Where twins, triplets, or siblings (brothers or sisters) are applying for the same year group, and only one place is available the sibling/s will also be offered a place/s above the admission number.

Notes

1. A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

A previously looked-after child is a child who, immediately after being looked-after, became subject to adoption, child arrangements order or special guardianship order and includes those who appear (to the Governing Body) to have been in state care outside of England¹ and ceased to be so because of being adopted.

2. Exceptional need applications must be in the form of a letter or e-mail to the Governing Body of the Academy, sent via the Admissions Officer, and accompanied by the supporting information described above.

The e-mail or letter is required in addition to the submission of a completed local authority application form.

3. Children of staff applications must be in the form of a letter or e-mail to the Governing Body of the Academy, sent via the Admissions Officer stating the name, post, and length of service of the member of staff, the name of the Academy, and the child's name and date of birth.

The e-mail or letter is required in addition to the submission of a completed local authority application form.

4. In addition to brothers and sisters, the term sibling includes half, adopted, step, or foster brothers or sisters living at the same address. It does not include cousins or other family members sharing a house. Please note that we are heavily oversubscribed, and we cannot always guarantee to offer a place to every applicant.

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. All applications directly to the Academy will be allocated a random number of between 1 and 8 that contains up to 7 decimal places. The numbers will be allocated by a computer programme and ranked from the smallest number at the top to the biggest number at the bottom. The applications are then sub-divided into the nine ability bands and ranked in order of the oversubscription criteria.

Late applications on the supplementary form and preferences made on the CAF form only, will be allocated a random number of 9 that contains up to 7 decimal places. These applications are then ranked in order of the oversubscription criteria.

The randomisation process will be supervised by an independent clerk of the independent appeals panel.

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 SIF 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 who attend the assessment.

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.

¹ A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.



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 the 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 SIF, including the Performing Arts page, and return it to the Academy by the deadline stated on the form.

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

Children will be given a score based on their performance in each element of the workshops and / or audition. Children will be ranked in the order of their total combined scores, with those children who score the highest being ranked from 1 to 18. A reserve list of up to 8 children will then operate should any of those ranked in the top 18 not require a place.

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 (secondary)

July 2023

Supplementary information form (SIF) available for completion

August / September 2023

Local authority information and common application / preference form (CAF / CPF) is made available.

September 2023

- Open event – for details of this, please see the Academy website
- Deadline for supplementary information form (SIF) – deadline date is as stated on the SIF

October 2023

- Early October - assessment date (as stated on the SIF)
- Mid-October - performing arts assessment date/s (as stated on the SIF)

31 October 2023

Deadline for receipt of:

- local authorities' common application / preference form (CAF / CPF)
- letters or e-mails and any supporting documentation in relation to applications under exceptional need
- letters or e-mails in relation to applications under children of staff oversubscription criteria

1 March 2024

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.

In-year admissions

From September 2024, there will be 180 places in each of Years 7 to 11.

Where vacancies occur, places are not offered based on the length of time children have been on the list but 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 more highly within the criteria than children already on the list because each time a child is added, the list will be ranked again in line with the published oversubscription criteria. Looked after children, previously looked after children, and those allocated a place at the Academy in accordance with a Fair Access Protocol (explained below) take precedence over those on a waiting list.

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

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.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group, for instance, where a child is gifted or talented or where a child has suffered from learning, social or medical issues impacting his or her schooling.

When such a request is made, the Governing Body will decide based on the circumstances of the case and in the best interest of the child concerned, considering the view of the Principal and any supporting evidence provided by the parent. The process for requesting such an admission is as follows:

Parents should submit an e-mail or letter to the Governing Body, via the Admissions Officer, to request that the child is admitted to another year group (stating which year group) and the reasons for their application. Included with the e-mail or letter should be any evidence in support of their case; some of the evidence a parent might submit could include:

- information about the child's academic, social, and emotional development
- where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional
- whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group
- whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely.

The Governing Body will advise the parent whether the request for admission out of age group has been agreed or the reason for any refusal. Where the Governing Body refuses such a request, there is no right of appeal against a refusal to offer a place in the preferred age group. The right of appeal only applies against a refusal of a place at the Academy.

Waiting lists and appeals

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 make a fresh application in January for your child's details to remain on the waiting list (see In Year Admissions section for how to apply).

For other in-year applications, the details will remain on the waiting list until the end of the academic year in which you apply (July). You will need to make a new application if you wish to apply for a place for the next academic year.

Where places become available, they will be filled in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

Appeals

All applicants refused a place have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code. This is a legal process and places are not 'reserved' for appeal panels to offer.

Further information about the appeals process can be found on the Academy's [website](#).

If you are considering an appeal, please contact the Appeals Coordinator for further information.

Tel: 01274 089780 – option 7

E-mail: appeals@dixonsacademies.com

