

## **Admissions & Appeals policy for the admission year 2026-27**

Responsibility for review: School and College Trust Leader

Date of next review: October 2025

Last consultation period: 28 November 2021 – 9 January 2022

Determined by: Board of Trustees – 23 January 2025

## 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 children
- 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 / carers 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](#).

The SIF must be submitted to register a child for the banding assessment. There is a strict deadline for return of the SIF; forms received by the deadline are considered first.

### Oversubscription criteria

The Academy has an agreed admissions number of 180 children for entry in Year 7. The Academy will admit up to 180 children 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<sup>1</sup> 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 an independent medical professional such as the child's paediatrician / consultant or an independent 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.

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<sup>1</sup> If a looked-after or previously looked-after child has not taken the banding test, they will still have priority above all other children (except those with an EHCP which names the Academy).



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. Further details can be found in the section below called 'Performing Arts places'.

Where possible, parents will be informed if their child's application is being prioritised under this criterion before the local authorities CAF / CPF 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. A skill shortage for teachers is a subject / area with a recognised national shortage, and for associate staff a post which has been unstaffed over a prolonged period resulting in multiple advertisements. See note 3 for further details and how to apply.
- e) Children whose siblings live at the same address, who currently attend the Academy, and who will still be attending the Academy 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 who sat the assessment.
- i) Children whose parents did not return / complete a supplementary form by the advertised deadline or who did not attend the assessment but named the Academy on the CAF / CPF, in the order set out above (see note 6).

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

Where a child is allocated a place and they have a sibling / s (brother / s or sister / s) applying for the same year group, the sibling / s will also be offered a place / s (see note 7).

#### 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 local academy board) to have been in state care outside of England<sup>2</sup> and ceased to be so because of being adopted.

- 2. Exceptional need applications must be submitted directly to the Academy via the form provided on the Admissions page of the Academy website. These applications must be submitted by the deadline for the local authority application form to ensure they can be considered prior to the ranking of applications.

The exceptional need application is required in addition to the submission of a local authority application form.

- 3. Children of staff applications must be submitted directly to the Academy via the form provided on the Admissions page of the Academy website. These applications must be submitted by the deadline for the local authority application form to ensure they can be considered prior to the ranking of applications.

An application under children of staff criterion is required in addition to the submission of a 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 child.
- 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 child.
- 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, children who did not sit the assessment, 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.

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<sup>2</sup> 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.



7. Where twins, 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 children whose applications are received by the SIF deadline are invited to take a non-verbal reasoning assessment. The assessment is externally set by a well-respected educational assessment agency.

The assessment takes place on a Saturday. For children unable to attend on the main assessment date, an additional date will be offered. This will either be during the academy holidays (Monday to Friday only), or after school. Parents can indicate on the SIF if their child is not available and provide any other dates when their child will not be available (within a specified range of dates). The child will then be invited to sit the assessment on a date when they are available. 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.

If a child has educational, medical, or social needs, that may affect them being able to complete the assessment, details of their needs should be provided on the SIF. A member of staff from the Academy may then contact the parent / carer or the child's primary school if further information is required. Adjustments will then be made to enable them to complete the assessment, or teacher assessed banding may be used in lieu of an assessment score.

Once the papers have been marked, the Academy is 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 9 ability bands or "stanines", from Band 1 at the bottom up to Band 9 at the top. The number admitted from each band reflects the number applying in that band e.g., if 20% of those applying are identified in band 5, then 20% of the places are allocated from this band. This ensures that the places we offer reflect the ability range of the children who completed the assessment.

### **Performing Arts places**

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

To apply for one of these places, parents must complete the SIF, including the Performing Arts page, and submit it to the Academy by the deadline stated on the form.

Children can choose to attend for a solo audition in either drama or music, or a workshop only session (which will include group workshops in both drama and music but no solo audition).

All children who apply for these places will be required to attend either an audition or the workshop only session to be considered for a place.

Children will be given a score based on their performance in either the audition or the workshops. Children will be ranked in the order of their total score, with those children who score 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. If there are insufficient children who demonstrate the required aptitude to qualify for a performing arts place, then fewer than 18 places will be offered. Scores of 9 and above (out of a maximum of 15) in the solo audition or scores of 20 or above (out of a maximum of 34) in the workshops, are considered as demonstrating the minimum required level of aptitude.

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

### **Calendar for admission (secondary)**

#### *July 2025*

Supplementary information form (SIF) available for completion

#### *August / September 2025*

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

#### *September 2025*

- Open event – Mid September.
- Deadline for supplementary information form (SIF) – late September. The exact date will be published on the website and the SIF.

#### *October 2025*

- Early October - assessment date (as stated on the SIF)



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

31 October 2025

Deadline for receipt of:

- local authorities' common application / preference form (CAF / CPF)
- applications under exceptional need criterion
- applications under children of staff criterion

2 March 2026

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.

### **Late applications**

Late CAF / CPF applications will be administered in accordance with the relevant local authority's coordinated scheme. Where applications are received after the deadline, this may affect your chances of being offered a place at the Academy as the application will be considered after those that were received on time.

When SIFs are submitted after the deadline, the details will be added to a waiting list. The Academy usually receives many more applications than there are places available, however, should we be unable to fill all the places, then an additional round of assessments will be arranged for those who apply after the deadline.

Where exceptional circumstances apply which prevented a parent / carer from submitting a SIF by the deadline, a late SIF may be considered with those received on time upon receipt of supporting documentation verifying why the application could not be made at the relevant time. As an example, exceptional circumstances could be where a family moved to the area, or where the child or parent was in hospital, close to the deadline date. Each application will be considered based on the supporting documentation received. Where no supporting documentation is provided a late application cannot be considered with those received on time.

### **In-year admissions**

The funding agreement for the Academy dictates how many students it will be funded for in total. The Academy plans its operations such as staffing, timetabling, and provision of resources based on the funding received; this equates to the following provision:

- There are 900 places across the year groups 7 to 11.

If a child is refused a place, this is because admission of another child would prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources.

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 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.

For applications at the point of entry (Year 7), the request should be submitted before the deadline for applications. For applications in-year, the request should be submitted at the same time the in-year application is made.

When such a request is made, the local academy board 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 local academy board, 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

The local academy board will advise the parent whether the request for admission out of age group has been agreed or the reason for any refusal. Where the local academy board 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 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 have any questions about the appeals process, please contact the appeals coordinator:

Tel: 01274 089780 – option 7

E-mail: [appeals@dixonsacademies.com](mailto:appeals@dixonsacademies.com)

