

Admissions & Appeals policy for the admission year 2024-25

Responsibility for review: Executive Principal

Date of next review: October 2023

Last consultation period: 26 November 2021 – 9 January 2022

Determined by: Trust Board – 12 January 2023



Admissions

Statement of Policy

- The Academy is committed to:
- admitting an intake reflective of the local community
- 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 / prospective 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 which complies with the School Admission Appeals Code

Procedures for Reception entry

The admission arrangements are:

- a) There are 60 places in Reception.
- 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 Primary Schools". Where the Academy receives more applications than places available, the oversubscription criteria will apply.
- c) Applications must be made on the Common Application / Preference Form (CAF / CPF) provided by the local authorities by the stated deadline.
- d) Children attending the Academy's nursery are not guaranteed a place in the reception class and parents must complete the CAF / CPF (as stated above) to apply for a place.

Oversubscription criteria

The Academy has an agreed admissions number of 60 children for entry in Reception. The Academy will accordingly admit up to 60 children in the relevant age group each year if sufficient applications are received. All children will be admitted if 60 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 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 March. See note 2 for how to apply.

- c) Up to 2 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.

If demand exceeds places at this point, the decision of who will be offered the place will be made by using a computerised random number generator programme (see note 4).



- d) Children whose siblings live at the same address, who currently attend the Academy, and who will continue to do so on the date of admission (see note 5 for a definition of sibling).
- e) Admission of children based on proximity to the Academy using straight line measurement from the Academy to the home address (see note 6).

If demand exceeds places at points d) or e), places will be decided based upon the distance (proximity) of the home address (see note 6) to the Academy, with those who live closest receiving priority for the place/s. If there are two or more children from equidistant addresses but only one place remains, the decision of who will be offered the place will be made by using a computerised random number generator programme (see note 4).

Where twins or triplets or siblings (brothers or sisters) are applying for the same year group and only one place is available, the remaining 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 a 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. All applications 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 randomisation process will be supervised by an independent clerk of the independent appeals panel.

5. 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.

6. Straight line measurement is taken from the Ordnance Survey reference point for the home address to the main entrance of the Academy. 'Home address' refers to the child's permanent home at the time of admission. Where the child lives with split parents who have shared responsibility, it is for the parents to determine which address to use when applying for a school. Proof of residency may be required at any time during or after the allocation process.

Deferred entry

Children are entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday.

Parents who do not feel that their child is ready for full-time education then, should speak to the Principal about whether starting their schooling on a part-time basis, or deferring the start until their child reaches compulsory school age, would be beneficial to their child.

Where entry is deferred, the Academy will hold the place and not offer it to another child during the remainder of the school year for which the application was made. Parents cannot defer entry beyond the point at which the child reaches their fifth birthday, nor beyond the beginning of the summer term (in April) of the school year for which a place was offered.

Requests to offset

Information on off-setting can be found in the School Admissions section of Bradford local authority's [website](#) and in the document '[Summer Born Children – Starting School: Advice for parents](#)'.

Where parents feel that their summer born child's needs are such that they would benefit from starting school later, they should first discuss with the Academy what is available in school to meet the needs of the youngest children.

If parents wish to apply for off-setting at this Academy, they should use the 'Request to start school out of the chronological year group form' which is available at the end of this document. Parents will still need to apply to the local authority by the deadline for a place in the child's normal age group in case the request is not successful.

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.



Calendar for admission (primary)

November 2023

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

November 2023 – January 2024

Open event – for details of this, please see the Academy website.

15 January 2024

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
- request to start school out of the chronological year group forms and any documentation relating to the request

16 April 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 that year.

Procedures for Year 7 entry

The admission arrangements are:

- a) There are 245 places in Year 7.
- b) Scholars in Year 6 at the Academy will have an automatic right to transfer into Year 7. Parents should still complete the form specified at point d) (below) by the stated deadline and list the Academy as a preference; this will then communicate their wish for their child to remain at the Academy to the local authority.
- c) Applications for places at the Academy will be made in accordance with the local authorities Coordinated Admission Scheme, 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.
- d) Applications must be made on the Common Application / Preference Form (CAF / CPF) provided by the local authorities by the stated deadline.

Oversubscription criteria

The Academy has places for 245 children in Year 7. Because the Academy is an all-through Academy, 60 of these places are automatically available to children already attending the Academy in Year 6. Consequently, the published admission number for the Academy is 185.

The Academy will accordingly admit up to 185 children if sufficient applications are received. All applicants will be admitted if 185 or fewer apply. If any of the Year 6 children do not require a place, those places will be allocated to other children applying.

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 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) Up to 4 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.

If demand exceeds places at this point, the decision of who will be offered the place will be made by using a computerised random number generator programme (see note 4).



- d) Children whose siblings live at the same address, who currently attend the Academy, and who will continue to do so on the date of admission (see note 5 for a definition of sibling).
- e) Up to 24 children who are currently on roll at Dixons Manningham or Dixons Marchbank Academy in Year 6 (see note 6).
- f) Admission of children based on proximity to the Academy using straight line measurement from the Academy to the home address (see note 7).

If demand exceeds places at points d) or e), places will be decided based upon the distance (proximity) of the home address (see note 7) to the Academy, with those who live closest receiving priority for the place/s. If there are two or more children from equidistant addresses but only one place remains, the decision of who will be offered the place will be made by using a computerised random number generator programme (see note 4).

Where twins or triplets or siblings (brothers or sisters) are applying for the same year group and only one place is available, the remaining 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 a special guardianship order and includes those who appear (to the Governing Body) to have been in state care outside of England² 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. All applications 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 randomisation process will be supervised by an independent clerk of the independent appeals panel.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. Straight line measurement is taken from the Ordnance Survey reference point for the home address to the main entrance of the Academy. 'Home address' refers to the child's permanent home at the time of admission. Where the child lives with split parents who have shared responsibility, it is for the parents to determine which address to use when applying for a school. Proof of residency may be required at any time during or after the allocation process.

Calendar for admission (secondary)

August / September 2023

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

September - October 2023

Open event – for details of this, please see the Academy website.

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

² 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.



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.

Procedures for Post-16 (sixth form) entry

There are a total of 240 places in post-16 (years 12 & 13); with 120 places specifically for Year 12. All applicants who meet the entry criteria will be admitted if 120, or fewer, apply.

The Academy's Year 11 scholars who meet the required entry criteria, can progress automatically into Year 12. The PAN for external applications is 10. If fewer of the Academy's Year 11 scholars' progress to Post 16, additional external applicants who meet the required entry criteria will be admitted up to the overall Year 12 capacity.

Full details of the minimum and / or specific course entry requirements will be published in the post-16 information that is available annually. Scholars not currently on roll at the Academy who wish to join post-16 must complete a post-16 application form and return it to the Academy by the advertised deadline date.

Where there are more application than places available and those applicants meet the entry criteria, applications will be ranked in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed above.

In-year admissions

- In the primary phase (Reception to Year 6) there are 60 places in each of Years Reception to Year 6
- In the secondary phase, there are 245 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 Reception or 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.

The Government has set a limit on the size of infant classes, and this means that no Key Stage 1 (Reception, Year 1, or Year 2) class can have more than 30 children with one teacher. Because of this law very few appeals are successful for Key Stage 1.

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





REQUEST TO START SCHOOL OUT OF THE CHRONOLOGICAL YEAR GROUP

This form should only be used by those parents / carers requesting their child starts school in Reception, a full year behind their chronological age group. You should read the document '[Summer Born Children – Starting School: Advice for parents](#)' before submitting this request.

Those applying for deferred entry or an in-year admission outside the normal year group should follow the process outlined in the Admissions & Appeals Policy.

Parents should be aware that:

- Consideration of the request may be delayed unless this request and the supporting documents are received by the time of the primary school application deadline (15 January).
- The child may only be offset with the agreement of the Governing Body (the admission authority) for this Academy. You will also need to make applications to the local authority (for schools for whom they are the admission authority) and / or the admission authorities for any other schools you are applying to.
- If agreed, the child will usually remain offset throughout their educational career and the transfer to secondary school will take place a year later, however, you may need to make an application in Year 5 to a local authority or the admissions authority of a different school, as they may not agree with the decision made by the Governing Body. The same will apply if you move house mid-way through your child's education and you apply to other local authorities or admission authorities.
- Should agreement not be given, and you still choose to offset entry, you will need to apply for a place in Year 1; this application will need to be made in June (i.e., prior to the start of the academic year in late August). Allocation will be dependent upon a place being available at the time of application and your child qualifying for a place following application of the oversubscription criteria.

PART 1

Child's details	
Forename/s:	
Surname:	
Date of birth:	

Parent's / Carer's details			
Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss / Other (please state or delete as appropriate)			
Forename:		Surname:	
Child's address:		Your address (if different to the child's):	
Postcode:		Postcode:	
Contact number:			
E-mail address:			

Please turn over



PART 2

Reasons for request. Please state these as fully as possible in the space below and attach separate sheets if necessary.

Large empty rectangular box for providing reasons for the request.

Who is supporting the request (tick all that apply)?

Paediatrician	
Educational Psychologist	
Specialist Teacher	
Speech therapist	
Head Teacher / nursery teacher	
Other - please specify the occupation or relationship to the child:	

Please list below the supporting documents you are including with this application:

Please post/return the completed request and supporting documents by either:

e-mail to: admissions@dixonsaa.com

post to: Admissions Officer, Dixons Allerton Academy, Rhodesway, Bradford, BD8 0DH

