

Dixons Mission Statement



Our mission is to challenge educational and social disadvantage in the North.

We establish high-performing non-faith academies which maximise attainment, value diversity, develop character and build cultural capital.

By the age of 18, we want every student to have the choice of university or a high quality apprenticeship.

Welcome to Testing at Dixons City!



- About The Dixons Trust – all Dixons schools
- Do you want a Dixons Academy (all Dixons referred to)?
- Only talking admissions for City and McMillan here today
- Same ‘test’ at Kings. You only sit once.
- Can’t fit everyone in here so there are tests there too
- Some important messages about applying
- Question and Answer

About The Trust



- Original school Dixons City (CTC) 1990
- Dixons Allerton 2009
- Dixons Trinity and Music 2012
- Dixons McMillan 2014
- Dixons Marchbank 2014
- Dixons Manningham 2015
- Dixons Kings 2015
- Dixons Trinity Chapeltown (Leeds) 2017
- Dixons Cottingley 2018
- Dixons Unity (Leeds) 2018
- Dixons Sixth Academy 2019

Why have we got 12 schools?



- We are a Multi-Academy Trust
- Work together to drive up standards
- Dixons City so over-subscribed
- Moral purpose to open more schools
- Provide more children with a Dixons education
- Passionate about making a difference
- Utter commitment to the Dixons mission
- Schools that are different yet ultimately similar
- All of our established schools are oversubscribed

Creating even more places



- This year we have created more places
- We've done this by opening a Dixons Sixth Form
- Dixons City up to 180 places
- Dixons McMillan and Trinity up to 134
- We've pushed our numbers as far as we can
- We expect to still be oversubscribed
- We have though created another 59 places
- Plus another 180 by opening Dixons Cottingley

A word of warning



- Many Dixons schools are very over-subscribed
- A strong chance you won't get your 1st choice
- Consider other local schools (ie distance)
- Dixons Cottingley may have places
- A school on a rapid journey to improvement
- Dixons Allerton used to be on this journey
- It is now an over-subscribed school
- It performs extremely well
- It takes by distance
- If you are out of area you may not secure Allerton

Performance of the Trust in 2019



- One of the highest performing MATs in the country again
- McMillan, City, Kings, Trinity top performing schools nationally
- All established schools good or better Ofsted
- Trinity, Kings, McMillan, City – Ofsted Outstanding
- Allerton – Ofsted Good (2019)
- Cottingley (and Unity) expect to be Good at first Dixons Ofsted

We work together to drive up standards



- Safeguarding
- Behaviour systems (learning habits)
- Attendance
- Curriculum
- Assessment
- Staff development
- Research
- Teacher Training
- Estates and Finance

Choose us if you want:



- A relentless focus on achievement
- An uncompromising position on attendance
- High expectations of behaviour for learning
- An emphasis on self-discipline
- Old fashioned values like respect and politeness
- A non-faith multi-cultural community where we respect each other's differences
- To sign our 3-way contract (see school websites)

Don't choose us if:



- It's convenient – it's the local school
- You are not committed to excellent attendance
- Friends and family come here
- Education doesn't come first
- You are not prepared to sign up for **all** aspects of the Home-School Contract
- You are not prepared for a longer working week
- You are not prepared for different holidays
- Your child really wants to go somewhere else
- Your child won't travel independently

Is your child a Dixons Student?



- Does education come first?
- Are they serious about **working really hard**
- Are they prepared to be challenged academically?
- Will they give 100% and not give up?
- Are they accepting of all aspects of diversity?
- Do they accept people who are different to them?
- Will they take any Dixons school listed on your CAF?
- You could be allocated any, despite the order you put
- Wanting another one is not a strong ground for appeal

Diversity only works if you have a strong emphasis on commonality



- All do English, Maths, Science
- Nearly all at least one language (Spanish in most)
- All take a broad range of subjects at KS3; strong emphasis on EBACC plus Technology & Creative Arts
- All wear the same uniform
- All attend **compulsory** residential trips (a cost)
- All expected to **accept** one another
- There are no 'opt-outs' of the core experience

Behaviour System/Learning Habits



- Same day corrections
- No chance; uniform, punctuality, equipment, off task, homework
- 1 verbal warning in class then a correction
- High expectations, no excuses
- Clear boundaries, firm but fair
- Work together to put things right
- Clean slate the next day
- Integrity, fairness, respect important values

Attendance



- Minimum expectation of an average of 98%
- That means most children 100% of time
- No holidays or extended leave are authorised
- We work with an ESW to make home-visits
- Time off damages educational outcomes
- If we condone, we are failing your children

Hard Work is an Expectation for All



- We believe it is hard work that leads to success
- Your child will be expected to work hard
- This means in and out of school
- We challenge 'coasting'
- If your child comes here, it is to learn
- We are ambitious, they need to be ambitious
- We don't **just** want to be outstanding
- We want to be **exceptional**, because we care
- That means hard work for all of us

Pastoral Support



- Form tutor/Learning Advisor
- Head of Year
- SENDCo and in many schools a Nurse
- Senior Team, all student-centred
- Highly visible Senior Team
- Lots of opportunity to learn collectively
- Constant focus on our vision and values
- Great results and great young people

Importance of Parents



- Checking planners and bags
- Helping with organisation of equipment
- Ensuring attend and on time 100% of the time
- Ensuring homework is complete
- No such thing as no homework (100% sheets)
- Supporting attendance at corrections
- Working with us when things go wrong
- Ensuring reading beyond homework
- Literacy is the key to success

Three Way Partnership



- A clear contract (see our websites)
- What you can expect from us
- What we expect of our students
- What we expect of you as parents
- We are schools that do what we say



To Sum Up, What is the Dixons Difference?

1. Longer working week (different start and finish times between schools)
2. Some different holidays from other schools
3. Uniform –100% every day
4. More homework (100% sheets)
5. Compulsory residentials
6. Emphasis EBACC, breadth curriculum in KS3
7. High expectations of A and P and conduct

What is the Dixons Difference?



8. Nearly all do a Language
9. We rarely close, even for strikes and snow
10. Positive relationships
11. Strong caring ethos, we know our children
12. Commitment to a diverse learning community
13. Extra curricular expectation
14. Clear routines and collective learning
15. Happy students!

About the Admissions Process



- Vital you read the guidance and policy
- Read each schools and leave nothing to chance
- You can appeal but most schools over-full
- Every year, parents get it wrong
- We want you to get it right
- **Exceptional medical and social need and Children of staff – CAF plus direct to Academies Admission by 31st of October**

The Timeline for Applications



- Open evenings - already gone
- Our internal form (SIF) – deadline already gone
- Testing today
- CAF – 31st of October
- You can alter up until then
- PA at City only
- LA e-mail or letter 2nd March 2020
- Start of term August (a week earlier than most)
- Don't book holidays just in case

Some Important Messages



- The test is not pass/fail – it's a test of us, not your child
- Put schools **in genuine order of preference on CAF**
- Not too late to change if you've done this already
- You will not be disadvantaged by doing this
- No school sees your preference
- If you want another Dixons school put on the CAF too
- There are no games to improve chances
- Don't put a Dixons school down that you don't want
- Your child will need to be able to travel to the school
- Not wanting to get on the bus is not a strong appeal



- Siblings have a strong chance
- It is not 100% though, take your other choices seriously
- If your child doesn't get in **it's for no other reason than their name was not 'picked out of the hat'**
- You have no better or worse chance of getting in according to your ability or current school
- If you put all Dixons schools be prepared to take any 1
- Not advisable to fill your form with all Dixons schools
- The exception to this is if Allerton is your local school
- Or Cottingley which is also by distance
- Cottingley may have some places beyond distance
- We can't tell as its roll is going up year on year

About Random selection



- This process is applied for each school with this admission policy (i.e. City, Kings and McMillan)
- The child sits the test (just once) at City or Kings
- GL Assessment (an external company) then allocate them to 1 of 9 a stanines, or buckets (9 is at the top, 1 at the bottom)
- They then tell us, how many of the 180/160/134 places at City/Kings/McMillan should go to each stanine (depending on the numbers that have applied for each stanine). So, for example, if 20% of applicants at City are stanine 3, then there will be 36 places for stanine 3.
- Because most children fall into the middle, there are more places in the middle stanines and less at the top and the bottom.
- There are less people who apply who are in the top and the bottom stanines, so there are less places in those stanines.
- A computer programme randomly generates a number that applies to each application.
- The applicants are then placed in random number order from the smallest to the highest.
- We then apply the over-subscription criteria (in the order below) to the applicants in each stanine, with those applicants moving up the lists.
- EHCP, LAC, exceptional medical/social* need, 18 PA at City only, up to 3 staff (at each school) siblings Years 7-10, Music Primary (City, McMillan and Trinity only)
- Applicants that do not meet any of the above criteria then follow in random number order.
- At the end of this there are 9 lists for each academy and these are sent to the authority.
- You can see on academy websites how many were allocated in each criteria last year

* As applied to, and if granted by, the Governors

Why we have the admission policies we do



- Dixons City's original vision was that it was to be City wide
- This was to make sure the school was diverse and to give a wide variety of students a chance to come
- City and McMillan have maintained this position because if we went local, it would have too much of a negative impact on local schools
- Particularly as City, McMillan and Trinity are all in the same area
- Trinity has changed because of traffic on Trinity Road and because a lot of Music Primary children will go there
- Other Dixons schools have the admission policy they had when they were converted (eg Allerton, Kings, Cottingley)
- City has a performing arts specialism so 18 places go to these children
- None of us are grammar schools, we are truly comprehensive

The Authority's role



- Check the order of preference (schools don't see this)
- Eg if you live next door to Beckfoot Thornton and you have put them first, you'll get them
- That child will come out of the Dixons stanine list.
- The next person on that stanine list will then fill that place.
- You could be picked out for City, Kings and McMillan
- The authority will then allocate according to preference order
- If you *were* picked out for all 3, you would be allocated your top preference by the authority and you will not be able to swap
- Remember, if you put your local school first, even if you are picked out 3 times for Dixons, the authority will allocate you in genuine order of preference. So if you live next door to Beckfoot Thornton and you put them 1st, you will go to Beckfoot Thornton

In sum; Dixons schools are in high demand



- Make sure you have a local school (one that admits by distance)
- This may be Cottingley or Allerton if you live close by
- If you are not randomly picked, the LA will go down your list until you are allocated
- If you put down all over-subscribed schools, you could be allocated one you did not choose
- Make sure you have your school in genuine order but don't expect to get your 1st choice (if you are picked out twice it helps)
- There are no games to be played
- Be prepared to take to school you are allocated, there are no swaps
- **Make sure your child does not feel they have taken an 11+**

What next?



- Ask questions if unsure
- **Make sure your CAF is in on time**
- Make sure genuine order of preference
- 2nd March 2020 the LA will write to you
- We will then write to you if you are allocated

City only - PA auditions

- Outcome of PA will be advised to parents before the deadline for the CAF.
- Make sure your child wants a PA place.
- Put City 1st if this is your preferred school.
- You can still put other Dixons schools down.

Any Questions?



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