

Waiting lists and appeals – Year 7 entry – September 2023

Dixons City, Dixons Kings and Dixons McMillan Academies

General information

As advised in the Guidance for Admissions document that was issued with the supplementary form, every year there are many more applicants than we have places for.

All places were offered via the coordinated admission scheme, operated by the local authorities, and allocated in accordance with the oversubscription criteria and to children from all ability levels.

Late forms

Where a supplementary form (SIF) or common application form (CAF) was submitted late, or not at all, those children were considered after those for whom the form/s had been submitted by the deadline/s.

Admitting children of all abilities

The assessment is **not** a traditional entrance exam which children either pass or fail. Instead, places at these Academies are offered to children of all abilities and are fair-banded. This means that the number of places offered in each ability band reflects the number of children applying in each band. The breakdown for each stanine band can be seen on the table overleaf.

Application of the oversubscription criteria

Being centrally based, Dixons City and McMillan Academies do not operate a distance rule policy, therefore, places were not allocated based on where a child lives in relation to the Academy but by applying the oversubscription criteria, which includes random allocation.

At Dixons Kings Academy, 55% of places were set aside for children living in BD7 and 45% of places were set aside for children from other postcode areas (as per the Admissions Policy). Places were not decided based on the distance a child lives in relation to the Academy, but by applying the oversubscription criteria which includes random allocation.

No places were allocated based on the primary school a child attends, their gender, their ethnicity, or their background.

If a child was not successful in gaining a place at a Dixons Academy, or the Dixons Academy they were allocated was not their 1st choice, this was solely because they did not qualify as high as other children on the list. For example, the random number allocated to them was lower than the random number allocated to other children on the list.

For full details of the oversubscription criteria, please refer to the Admissions & Appeals Policy which can be found in the Downloads section on the following webpages:

Dixons City Academy	www.dixonsca.com/admissions/admission-policy
Dixons Kings Academy	www.dixonska.com/admissions/admission-policy
Dixons McMillan Academy	www.dixonsma.com/admissions/admission-policy

Dixons Allerton & Dixons Trinity Academies

For Dixons Allerton & Dixons Trinity Academies, places were allocated by oversubscription criteria, which includes a distance rule instead of random allocation. This means that after siblings have been given places, any remaining places are offered to those who live nearest to the Academy.

For full details of the oversubscription criteria, please refer to the Admissions & Appeals Policy which can be found in the Downloads section on the following webpages:

Dixons Allerton Academy	www.dixonsaa.com/admissions/secondary-admissions-policy
Dixons Trinity Academy	www.dixonsta.com/admissions/admission-policy

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Breakdown of places by stanine band – fair banding

	Dixons City				Dixons Kings				Dixons McMillan			
	Applied	%	Places	%	Applied	%	Places	%	Applied	%	Places	%
Stanine 1	66	6.70%	12	6.67%	59	7.28%	12	7.50%	65	7.09%	9	6.72%
Stanine 2	74	7.51%	14	7.78%	72	8.89%	14	8.75%	78	8.51%	11	8.21%
Stanine 3	96	9.75%	18	10.00%	85	10.49%	17	10.63%	102	11.12%	15	11.19%
Stanine 4	156	15.84%	28	15.56%	133	16.42%	26	16.25%	142	15.49%	21	15.67%
Stanine 5	171	17.36%	31	17.22%	136	16.79%	27	16.88%	148	16.14%	22	16.42%
Stanine 6	169	17.16%	31	17.22%	119	14.69%	24	15.00%	148	16.14%	22	16.42%
Stanine 7	104	10.56%	19	10.56%	88	10.86%	17	10.63%	96	10.47%	14	10.45%
Stanine 8	71	7.21%	13	7.22%	53	6.54%	10	6.25%	68	7.42%	10	7.46%
Stanine 9	78	7.92%	14	7.78%	65	8.02%	13	8.13%	70	7.63%	10	7.46%
			3*				4	*			2*	
Total	985		183		810		164		917		136	
CAF only / late SIF	524				426				347			
Overall	1509				1236				1264			

* Indicates the number of additional places which have been allocated outside of the banding arrangements. The School Admissions Code states that children with EHCPs and looked-after children, for whom the academy has been named, must be admitted. In order to comply with the Code, additional places have been allocated above admission number to those children who have not sat the fair-banding assessment.

Note

The number of places offered is rounded up or down to give a whole number of children from admission. For example, 12.06 places will be rounded down to 12 places, whereas 30.88 places will be rounded up to 31 places. Consequently, the percentage of places will be slightly higher or lower than the percentage of applicants in an ability band.

	Dixons Trinity		Dixons Allerton		
	Applied	Places	Applied	Places	
Total CAF preferences	1317	134	756	250**	** Places available at DAA increased by 5 for the 2023/24 intake, as requested by the LA

Waiting lists

Anyone who is not offered a place at a Dixons Academy they applied for, will automatically have their details kept on a reserve / waiting list until the end of December 2023. It is not necessary to contact the academies to ask to remain on the waiting list, but you are advised to return the waiting list form to the local authority so that they are also aware of your wish to remain on the waiting list for these academies and any other schools you applied for.

If you wish to keep your child's details on the waiting list after December, please ensure you contact the Admissions Office at the Academy in January 2024.

Should you wish to make a specific enquiry about the waiting list, please contact the Admissions Office at the Academy.

Appeals – Frequently asked questions and statistics

If you are dissatisfied with the admission decision, you have the right to make a representation to the Appeals Panel, which is independent of the Academies. You may find the following information helpful in respect of appeals:

Should I appeal?

Before any appeal takes place, the year group will be full. No places are 'reserved' for children whose appeals are upheld.

As well as considering the reasons a parent gives why the child should be admitted, the panel also consider if the application was made correctly and on time, if the admission arrangements complied with the mandatory requirements of the School Admissions Code, whether those arrangements were correctly and impartially applied to that application, and the Academy's case for why it cannot admit any more children.

As any upheld appeal will result in the year group being over the admission number, which could have health and safety implications and / or a harmful effect on the teaching and learning of all or some of the pupils in the year group, only those appeals with **strong** reasons are likely to be upheld. Appeals solely on the grounds of distance from, or convenience of transport to, the Academy are unlikely to be upheld.

The following page shows the figures for the appeals for the last three years, both for entry at the start of Year 7 and for in-year appeals.

When should I appeal by?

The deadline for appealing is Wednesday 29 March 2023. The hearings for appeal forms received by this deadline will take place in May or June. Forms received after the deadline will be heard later.

What should I put in my appeal?

It is important to put on the form *all* your reasons for wanting a place at that Academy. It is *your* responsibility to provide any supporting documentation, such as letters from a hospital consultant / paediatrician or social services, and these should be sent with your appeal form.

If you cannot submit all your documents with your appeal form, you must make sure you submit these to the Appeals Coordinator at least 5 days before your appeal. If you submit additional documents after this or on the day itself, the panel may be unable to consider them, or they may defer your appeal to another date. The panel cannot consider documents submitted after the appeal hearing.

If my appeal is refused, can I appeal again?

If you are unsuccessful in your appeal, a second appeal will only be considered for the same academic year if there has been a significant change in your circumstances, because of which a new application has been accepted.

Please note

You cannot appeal for an academy if you did not apply to it or list it on your local authority's online system / common application form (CAF).

If you are appealing for more than one Dixons academy, a separate appeal form must be completed for each of the academies you are appealing for, stating your reasons for wanting a place at that academy.

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Key:

Lodged: number of appeals made

Upheld: appeals found in favour of the appellant

Rejected: appeals found in favour of the Academy

Appeals lodged and outcome	Lodged	Upheld	Rejected
Dixons Allerton Academy (secondary phase)			
2020 – Year 7 entry	48	3	45
2021 – Year 7 entry	21	0	21
2022 – Year 7 entry	9	0	9
In-Year 2020-21	13	1	12
In-Year 2021-22	9	0	9
In-Year 2022-23 (To date)	4	0	4
Dixons City Academy			
2020 – Year 7 entry	72	1	71
2021 – Year 7 entry	75	0	75
2022 – Year 7 entry	87	0	87
In-Year 2020-21	16	0	16
In-Year 2021-22	16	0	16
In-Year 2022-23 (To date)	10	0	10
Dixons Kings Academy			
2020 – Year 7 entry	117	2	115
2021 – Year 7 entry	63	0	63
2022 – Year 7 entry	81	2	79
In-Year 2020-21	22	1	21
In-Year 2021-22	14	0	14
In-Year 2022-23 (To date)	12	0	12
Dixons McMillan Academy			
2020 – Year 7 entry	80	0	80
2021 – Year 7 entry	53	0	53
2022 – Year 7 entry	74	0	74
In-Year 2020-21	23	0	23
In-Year 2021-22	13	0	13
In-Year 2022-23 (To date)	12	0	12
Dixons Trinity Academy			
2020 – Year 7 entry	70	0	70
2021 – Year 7 entry	57	0	57
2022 – Year 7 entry	70	0	70
In-Year 2020-21	19	0	19
In-Year 2021-22	11	0	11
In-Year 2022-23 (To date)	12	0	12

EDUCATION ACT 2002

You have the right to appeal to an Independent Panel who has the power to direct the governors to make places available at the school.

These notes tell you how to appeal and what happens if you do.

1 ALL APPEALS MUST BE IN WRITING

If you wish to appeal against the Academy's decision you must fill in an appeal form and send it by e-mail or post to the address stated on the form.

2 WHAT TO PUT IN YOUR APPEAL

It is important to put on the form **all** your reasons for wanting a place at the Academy. It is *your* responsibility to provide any documentation in support of your appeal, and these should be sent with your appeal form.

If you are unable to submit all your documents with your appeal form, you must make sure you submit these to the Appeals Coordinator, at the address above, at least **five** days before your appeal. If you submit additional documents after this or on the day of your appeal, the panel may be unable to consider them, or they may defer your appeal to another date. The panel cannot consider documents submitted after the appeal has been heard.

3 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Your appeal form will be acknowledged within 7 days and will be forwarded to the Clerk to the Independent Appeals Panel who, for applications in the normal admissions round, will arrange your appeal within 40 school days of the deadline for appeal forms.

For applications outside the normal admissions round, the Clerk will arrange your appeal within 30 school days of the appeal form being received. The Clerk will send you a letter giving you the date, time, and place of the appeal hearing. You will be notified of this at least 14 calendar days (or 10 school days) before the hearing to give you time to prepare your case.

You will also receive a statement from the Academy one week before your appeal hearing which will give the reasons why your child was not allocated a place at that Academy.

4 ATTENDING THE HEARING

You should try to attend the hearing if possible. The Appeals Panel will get a better idea of your case if they can ask you questions. Alternatively, you may send someone to represent you if you are unable to attend.

You may wish to ask someone to attend the hearing to help you or speak for you. This can be a friend or adviser, such as a Choice Adviser, a locally elected politician, or an employee of the local education authority such as an educational social worker, SEN advisor, or learning mentor. You **must** notify the clerk if you intend to be represented or accompanied at the hearing.

If you choose not to attend the hearing, the Appeals Panel will make a decision on the basis of:

- a) the written evidence you have provided.
- b) a written statement and an oral statement given at the hearing by the Presenting Officer for the Academy, giving the reasons why your child was not allocated to the school of your preference.

5 GIVING YOUR EVIDENCE

The Appeal hearing follows a set procedure. You may feel the meeting is very structured, as the Chair will be strict on who can speak and when questions can be asked. The Chair will conduct the meeting and guide you through it. You will be given the opportunity to say everything you wish, ask any questions, and sum up your case. All the people at the Appeal hearing will treat your appeal in the strictest confidence.

The following people will be present:

- a) The Panel of 3 or 4 people which will be made up of people who are either:
 - lay persons, that is people without personal experience in the management of any school (other than as a governor or in a voluntary capacity) or
 - people with educational experience, such as teachers or parents

These people are acting independently of the Local Authority or school governors (admission authority) and have no connection with the Academy for which you are appealing or the school that your child has been allocated. These are the people who will make the decision about your appeal.

- b) The Clerk is independent of the Academy and is there to advise the Panel, the Academy, and the parents on the procedure, and to take notes of the proceedings.
- c) A representative (known as the Presenting Officer) for the Academy will explain why a place has not been allocated to your child.

The Presenting Officer will start first and present the reasons for not allocating a place for your child. You may then ask questions and you may challenge any statement made. You will then be asked to give the reasons for wanting your child to go to your preferred school and you may be asked questions about these reasons.

It is important to give all your reasons why you want a place for your child at the Academy. The panel cannot consider any reasons or evidence submitted after the appeal hearing.

6 THE PANEL'S DECISION

No decisions are made by the Panel until all cases in that round have been heard. The Panel meets in private, which means no parents or Academy representatives will be present. The Clerk will be present purely to assist the Panel on matters of evidence or procedure and to record the decision but is not involved in the decision-making process.

In making their decision the Panel follows a two-stage process.

(a) First Stage

The Panel must assess whether admitting any additional children would cause prejudice to the Academy and whether each child would have been offered a place had the admission arrangements been properly implemented. The Panel must then consider two separate issues as follows:

- (i) If the Panel decides that all the children who are the subject of the appeals could be admitted without prejudice to the Academy, it must uphold all the appeals.
- (ii) Where the Academy can satisfy the appeal panel that there would be prejudice, the panel must move to the second stage of the appeal to decide whether any of the individual appellant cases outweigh the prejudice.

(b) Second Stage

- (i) If the panel decides that admission of additional children could result in prejudice it must consider for each individual case whether the appellant's grounds for admission to the Academy outweigh such prejudice. This involves no comparison between individual cases. In other words, is your case stronger than the Academy's case.
- (ii) If there are several cases which outweigh the prejudice to the Academy and merit admission, but the panel determines that the Academy could not cope with that number of successful appeals, the panel must then compare all cases and decide which of them to uphold.

7 FINDING OUT ABOUT THE DECISION

The Clerk will write to you to let you know the results of your appeal within 7 calendar days (or 5 school days) after all the hearings have finished. No information will be given over the telephone or to callers at the Academy.