

Consultation on admissions arrangements

Dixons Academies Trust are consulting on a proposed change to the admissions arrangements from September 2023.

Priority for children attending Dixons Manningham and Dixons Marchbank academies

The Trust already has oversubscription criteria in place that gives priority to those who attend Dixons Allerton and Dixons Music primaries.

The Trust now wishes to introduce priority for children who attend Dixons Manningham and Dixons Marchbank, in order that those children can continue the learning journeys that they begin at primary school.

The priority will apply for 120 children in total and the proposal is for up to 24 places at each of the following academies:

- Dixons Allerton Academy
- Dixons City Academy
- Dixons Cottingley Academy
- Dixons Kings Academy
- Dixons McMillan Academy

The criteria would be added after the sibling criteria in each of the above academies' admission arrangements. Places at:

- Dixons City, Dixons Kings and Dixons McMillan would be decided by random allocation within ability bands
- Dixons Cottingley would be decided by catchment area and straight-line distance
- Dixons Allerton would be decided by straight-line distance

Where a tie-break situation is required, the decision of who is offered the place would be decided by independently verified random allocation.

By limiting the number of places to 24, this means that no single academy should fill all remaining places after siblings have been considered, thus leaving places available to other applicants under random allocation or distance criteria.

The Trust also anticipates that a proportion of the 120 children may prefer a school close to where they live, where older siblings already attend or a single-sex or faith school, and consequently the number who are allocated places could be fewer than 24. Where this happens, any remaining places will be allocated to those who qualify under subsequent criteria i.e., random allocation, catchment area and/or distance.

Supporting data

Dixons City, Dixons Kings and Dixons McMillan

Figures for the past 3 years demonstrate that if priority had been given to those who did not qualify for a place, this would have increased the number admitted to these academies by between 2 and 7 applicants from Dixons Manningham and by between 4 and 11 applicants from Dixons Marchbank.

	Dixons Manningham	Dixons Marchbank	Total
2021	5	11	16
2020	7	4	11
2019	2	10	12

If these figures are added together for each year it equates to between 11 and 16 applicants in total. If all had been allocated places at a single academy this would have affected the placings as follows:

Scenario A	Applicants	% of the PAN	No of places available under random allocation would potentially have changed	
			from	to
DCA				
2021	12	6.7	87	75
2020	11	6.1	59	48
2019	16	9.7	72	56
DKA				
2021	12	7.5	77	65
2020	11	6.9	59	48
2019	16	10	85	69
DKA				
2021	12	9	89	77
2020	11	8.2	76	65
2019	16	14.3	50	34

When taken as an average over 3 years, the impact at a single academy of applying prioritisation would have been:

- DCA 7.5% or 13 places out of 180 places overall
- DKA 8.1% or 13 places out of 160 places overall
- DMA 10.5% or 13 places out of 134 places overall

However, considering the different postcode areas that applicants live in, it is likely that the majority applying from Dixons Marchbank (primarily BD3) may have listed Dixons City higher and those applying from Dixons Manningham (primarily BD8 & BD1) may have listed Dixons Kings or Dixons McMillan higher, because of the proximity to the home address. When this is considered, it reduces the possible additional allocations to those shown below:

Scenario B	Applicants	% of the PAN	No of places available under random allocation would potentially have changed	
			from	to
DCA				
2021	11	6.1	87	76
2020	4	2.2	59	55
2019	10	6.1	72	62
DKA				
2021	5	3.1	77	72
2020	7	4.4	59	52
2019	2	1.3	85	83
DKA				
2021	5	3.7	89	84
2020	7	5.2	76	69
2019	2	1.8	50	48

When taken as an average across the three years, the impact of applying prioritisation would have been:

- DCA 4.8% or 8.3 places out of 180 places overall
- DKA 2.9% or 4.66 places out of 160 places overall
- DMA 3.6% or 4.66 places out of 134 places overall



As mentioned above, these figures do not factor in parents listing a school close to where they live, where older siblings already attend or a single-sex or faith school as a higher preference, which could reduce these numbers further.

Recent increases in PAN/roll

Dixons City and Dixons McMillan revised their published admissions number (PAN) from September 2020 as part of the increases to roll following the closure of their sixth form provision.

	Previous PAN	New PAN	Additional places each year	Average places under scenario A	Additional places remaining	Average places under scenario B	Additional places remaining
Dixons City	165	180	15	13	2	8.3	6.7
Dixons McMillan	112	134	22	13	9	4.66	17.34

The figures above show that any additional allocations (had the proposed criteria been in place in September 2020 and September 2021), would have been accommodated by the increases to PAN whilst still offering additional places to other children applying.

Furthermore, Dixons Trinity (also located in BD5) increased their PAN and amended the oversubscription criteria from September 2020. This has resulted in an additional 22 places being available each year, enabling more local children to be admitted to a Dixons academy.

Dixons Allerton

The number who have listed the Academy as a preference has varied significantly over the last 3 years. This may be due in part to the removal of fair banding in 2019 and changes in demand for other schools in the BD8 and BD9 areas.

The number of applicants who did not qualify for places was:

	Dixons Manningham	Dixons Marchbank	Total
2021	17	3	20
2020	36	0	36
2019	0	2	2

If the total number of applicants had been prioritised at Dixons Allerton, this would have affected the places allocated as follows:

	Applicants	% of the PAN	No of places available under distance would potentially have changed	
			from	to
2021	20	8.2	79	59
2020	36	15	96	59
2019	2	0.8	153	151

When taken as an average over the last 3 years, the impact of applying prioritisation would have been:

- 8% or 19.3 places out of 245 places overall

Dixons Cottingley

For Dixons Cottingley, the number that have listed the Academy as a preference in the last two years (since the academy joined the Dixons Trust) are as follows:

	Dixons Manningham	Dixons Marchbank	Total
2021	7	1	8
2020	5	0	5

All applicants requiring a place was allocated one, so prioritisation would not have affected places allocated under either catchment area or distance.



Consultation period and comments

The consultation lasts until Monday 7 January 2022, and we invite comments both from existing parents and other interested parties.

To view the proposed admissions arrangements, please visit the following webpage:

www.dixonsat.com/news-events/news/admissionschanges

Those who do not have access to the internet can collect a paper copy from the Reception at the Dixons academies.

If you wish to request a copy by post, please call the Trust Admissions Office: 01274 089780 – option 7

Comments on the proposed admissions arrangements should be made in writing **by Sunday 9 January 2022**. Please ensure any comments made specify which academy/ies they relate to.

You can submit comments using the form attached or send comments via:

e-mail: admissions@dixonsca.com

post: Admissions, c/o Lewis Building, Dixons City Academy, Ripley Street, Bradford, BD5 7RR

Please address any comments made via e-mail or post to: Sir Nick Weller, CEO



Consultation on changes to the admissions arrangements for Dixons Academies

Consultation on the introduction of priority for children who attend Dixons Manningham Primary and Dixons Marchbank Primary.

1. Please tick the academy/ies that your response relates to?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Dixons Allerton
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dixons City
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dixons Cottingley
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dixons Kings
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dixons McMillan

2. Are you in favour of the introduction of prioritisation?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	May be

3. Please give the reason(s) for your answer to question 2.

If your response is different for one or more of the academies, please specify which academy/ies the response relates to.

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Please continue overleaf or attach additional pages if you need more space.

4. Please tick which category best represents your interest in this consultation?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Parent
<input type="checkbox"/>	School staff
<input type="checkbox"/>	Member of the public
<input type="checkbox"/>	Local authority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Community or religious organisation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Politician
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

5. E-mail (optional). If you provide an email address, we will send you details of the outcome of the consultation.

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