



Policy Documentation

Admissions and Appeals for the admission year 2018/19

Responsibility for Review: Executive Principal
Date of Next Review: 01/09/2017

Admissions

Statement of Policy

The Academy is committed to:

- admitting a city-wide intake, reflecting all communities;
- resolving a situation where there are many more applications than places available;
- ensuring a consistency of approach in a potentially extremely emotive area;
- demonstrating that we are applying our oversubscription criteria equally and fairly;
- ensuring that children with Special Needs and vulnerable children are not treated less favourably than other applicants;
- working collaboratively with South Bradford Schools to improve behaviour and reduce exclusions by agreeing to the Fair Access Protocol.

The aims are:

- to ensure that places are awarded fairly and openly;
- to ensure that all prospective parents 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.

Procedures

The admission arrangements are:

- a) There are 60 places available.
- b) Applications for places at the Academy will be made in accordance with the local authorities coordinated admission arrangements, as published on local authorities' websites and in Bradford Local Authority's booklet "A guide for parents about admission arrangements to Primary Schools". Where the Academy receives more applications than places available, the oversubscription criteria for admission will apply.
- c) Applications have to be made on the Common Application Form (CAF) provided by the local authorities.
- d) If applying for a music specialist place, you must also complete the Dixons Music Primary supplementary form which can be obtained directly from the Academy or from Bradford Local Authority's website. There will be a strict deadline for return of the supplementary form; forms received by this deadline will be considered first.

Oversubscription criteria

The Academy will admit up to 60 children in the relevant age group each year if sufficient applications are received. All applicants will be admitted if 60 or fewer apply.

If the Academy is oversubscribed, after the admission of children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or 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 e.g. because they were adopted or became subject to a residence or special guardianship order. (See note 1 for a definition of the term 'looked-after child'.)
- b) Exceptional need:
 - i) special medical reasons for admission where they are deemed essential by an independent professional recommendation from the child's paediatrician/consultant, or
 - ii) social reasons for admission where they are deemed essential by an independent professional.

Allocation of a place would be decided based on receipt of a letter by the governors and where the governors consider that a place should be offered on these grounds.

- c) Six places will be awarded to children who show a particular aptitude for Music.
- d) Up to two 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.
- e) Children whose siblings live at the same address, currently attend the Academy, and will continue to do so on the date of admission. (See note 2 for a definition of the term sibling.)
- f) Other children on the basis of independently scrutinised random allocation.

If demand exceeds places at points c) or d) places will be decided based upon random allocation.

Twins or triplets

Where a family of twins or triplets request admission and only one of the children can be offered a place, 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 in the care of a local authority, or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (as defined in the Children Act 1989).

2. The term sibling includes legally adopted children, and step- and half-brothers or sisters *living at the same address*. Please note that we are heavily oversubscribed and we cannot always guarantee to offer a place to every sibling.

Deferred entry

Parents will be offered a full-time place in the September of the school year in which their child's fifth birthday falls. Parents can request for their child to start their schooling on a part-time basis or to defer the start until their child reaches compulsory school age; these requests should be addressed to the Head of School. In such instances children will commence schooling at the beginning of a term.

Where entry is deferred, the school 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 beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the beginning of the summer term of the school year for which they applied.

Music specialist places

There are six places (10% of our intake) available each year for children who demonstrate a particular aptitude for music.

To apply for one of these places, parents must complete the Supplementary Form and return it to the Academy by the deadline.

All applicants for these places will be required to attend a workshop in order to be considered for one of these places.

Children who are unsuccessful in gaining a music specialist place will still be considered for one of the remaining places, along with all other applicants.

Calendar for admission

September 2017 onwards

Dixons' supplementary form available for those who wish to apply for a music specialist place.

Late November 2017

Open event to be held.

Late November 2017

Deadline for receipt of the supplementary form.

Early December 2017

Specialist music workshops for all Music applicants who apply by the deadline.

Where possible, and in line with the School Admissions Code, parents will be informed of the outcome of the music specialist application prior to the local authorities CAF deadline.

Early January 2018

Open event to be held.

Sunday 15th January 2018

Deadline for submission of the local authorities' CAF.

Sunday 16th April 2018

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.

In-year admissions from September 2018

- There are 60 places in each of years Reception to Year 5, and 30 places in Year 6.
- All parents must also complete an in-year application form, available from the local authorities, as part of the co-ordinated admission arrangements.

Where vacancies occur, places are not offered based on the length of time names have been on the list. They are filled in co-ordination with the local authorities in line with the oversubscription criteria above. It is, therefore, possible that a child may be added to the waiting list who qualifies higher within the admissions criteria than children already on the list.

The Governing Council is prepared to go up to 2% above the in-year admission number to accommodate vulnerable children on the advice of the local authority.

Waiting lists and appeals

If your child is not offered a place at the Academy, your child's details will automatically remain on the waiting list until the end of December in that admission year. After this date, you will need to contact the Academy on an annual basis to ask for your child's details to be kept on the waiting list in case a place becomes available.

Furthermore, if you wish your child to be considered for a place at the Academy, you would also need to re-apply each year on the local authorities' in-year application form.

Where places become available they will be allocated in accordance with the oversubscription criteria above.

If you are dissatisfied with the admission decision, you will have the right of appeal. The Appeals Panel is independent of the Academy. The Panel's decision is final and binding on the Academy. If you are considering an appeal, please contact the Appeals Coordinator for further information and advice.

Tel: 01274 424350 – please ask for the Appeals Coordinator

E-mail: appeals@dixonsacademies.com