

Admissions Policy for Dixons Middleton Academy 2027 - 2028

Responsibility for Review: School and College Trust Leader

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Aims

This policy aims to:

- Explain **how to apply** for a place at the school
- Set out the school's **arrangements for allocating places to the pupils** who apply
- Explain **how to appeal** against a decision not to offer your child a place

Legislation and statutory requirements

This policy is based on the following advice from the Department for Education (DfE):

- [School Admissions Code](#)
- [School Admission Appeals Code](#)

As an academy, the school is required by its funding agreement to comply with these codes, and with the law relating to admissions as set out in the [School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#).

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

Definitions

The **normal admissions round** is the period during which parents can apply for state-funded school places at the school's normal point of entry, using the common application form provided by their home local authority.

Looked after children are children who, at the time of making an application to a school, are:

- In the care of a local authority, or
- Being provided with accommodation by a local authority in exercise of its social services functions
- 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.

Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they:

- Were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 or the Adoption and Children Act 2002, or
- Became subject to a child arrangements order, or
- Became subject to a special guardianship order

Procedures for Year 7 entry

The admission arrangements are:

- a) There are 270 places in Year 7.
- b) Applications for places at the Academy will be made in accordance with the local authorities Coordinated Admission Scheme, as published on Rochdale local authorities [website](#). Where the Academy receives more applications than places available, the oversubscription criteria for admission will apply.
- c) 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 an agreed admissions number of 270 children for entry in Year 7. The Academy will admit up to 270 children in the relevant age group each year if sufficient applications are received. All children will be admitted if 270 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.
Those wishing to apply for a previously looked-after child need to submit documents to confirm the eligibility when they complete the local authority CAF / CPF.
- b) Children who have exceptional social or medical need, supported by a written recommendation from an independent medical professional such as the child's paediatrician / consultant or an independent 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.

Those wishing to apply under this category need to submit, supporting information at the time of application, directly to the local authority. A panel from the Academy Trust will decide whether to admit the child under this criterion, using the evidence provided.

Parents / carers are responsible for providing all information in support of an application by the closing date. All information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence.

- c) Children whose siblings live at the same address, currently attend the Academy, and who will continue to attend the Academy on the date of admission (see note 2 for a definition of sibling).
- d) Priority will next be given to children eligible for the service premium. Children eligible for admission under this priority are those where: (see note 4).
 - o one of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces;
 - o one of their parents served in the regular armed forces in the last 3 years;
 - o one of their parents died while serving in the armed forces and the pupil is in receipt of a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) and the War Pensions Scheme (WPS)
- e) Priority will be given to children who live nearest to the school as measured by the Local Authority's GIS system. Distances are measured in a straight line "as the crow flies" from the Easting and Northing co-ordinates of the child's home address as taken from the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG), to the identified school gate used for admissions at the school.

Tie-break

If demand exceeds places at points c), d or e), places will be decided based upon the distance (proximity) of the home address (see note 3) 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 5).

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 special guardianship order and includes those who appear (to the local academy board) to have been in state care outside of England¹ and ceased to be so because of being adopted.
2. In addition to brothers and sisters, the term sibling includes half, adopted, step or foster brothers or sisters living at the same address. It also includes children sharing a house, where it can be demonstrated that they are residing permanently at the same address.
3. 'Home address' is identified as the permanent address where the child usually lives with their parent or carer (the person who holds parental responsibility for the child). Where shared care arrangements are in place and a child lives equally with both parents, the parents must agree which address will be used on the application to their local authority. Parents may be requested to supply documentary evidence to support the address used for the application. If the arrangements are not split equally between both parents, then the address used should be the address where the child spends most of the school week.
4. Children have to be flagged as service children ahead of the autumn school census deadline. Service parents need to make the school aware of their status by talking to the head teacher or school admin staff. Evidence of eligibility for the Service Pupil Premium (such as a copy of a military identification (ID) card) must be submitted to the local authority at the time of your application.
5. The 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 of the list to the biggest number at the bottom.

The randomisation process will be overseen by an independent person not connected to the Academy.

Late applications

Late CPF / CAF applications will be administered in accordance with the local authorities coordinated schemes. Where applications are received after the deadline, this may affect your chances of being offered a place at the Academy as the application will be considered after those that were received on time.

In-year admissions

The funding agreement for the Academy dictates how many students it will be funded for in total. The Academy plans its operations such as staffing, timetabling, and provision of resources based on the funding received; this equates to the following provision.

- There are 1350 places across the year groups 7 to 11.

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.



If a child is refused a place, this is because admission of another child would prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources.

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 Rochdale local authority's In Year Common Preference Form (ICPF) which is available on the local authority [website](#). The local authority will then contact you to advise you if a place can be offered 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.

Children of UK Services Personnel

The Trust acknowledges that service families are subject to movement within the UK and from abroad. Although the council is not able to reserve places for blocks of pupils, we will consider requests, if accompanied by an official MOD letter declaring a relocation date and a Unit postal address or quartering area address. In-year admissions places will be allocated, subject to a place being available in the relevant year group, prior to moving. If we are unable to allocate a place at that time, parents will be offered the right to appeal.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group, for instance, where the child is gifted or talented or where a child has suffered from learning, social or medical issues impacting his or her schooling.

For applications at the point of entry (Year 7), the request should be submitted before the deadline for applications. For applications in-year, the request should be submitted at the same time the in-year application is made.

When such a request is made, a panel of the Academy Trust 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 academy in the first instance, 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

The panel of the Academy Trust will advise the parent whether the request for admission out of age group has been agreed or the reason for any refusal. Where the request is refused, 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 list

For admissions in the normal admissions round, if there are no spaces available at the time of your application, your child's name will be added to a waiting list for the relevant year group. When a space becomes available it will be filled by one of the pupils on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed in this policy. Priority will not be given to children on the basis that they have been on the waiting list the longest. The school operates its waiting list for the statutory period of up to the 31 December.

Appeals

If your child's application for a place at the school is unsuccessful, you will be informed why admission was refused and given information about the process for hearing appeals. If you wish to appeal, you must set out the grounds for your appeal in writing using the appeals process for the Local Authority in which the school is situated.

You can find details of the school's appeals timetable on the following webpage: [Admissions | Dixons Middleton Academy](#)

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed and approved by Dixons Academies Trust every year.

Whenever changes to admission arrangements are proposed (except where the change is an increase to the agreed admission number), the Trust will publicly consult.