

Admissions & Appeals policy for the admission year 2026-27

Responsibility for review: School and College Trust Leader

Date of next review: October 2025

Last consultation period: November 2022 – December 2022

Determined by: Board of Trustees – 23 January 2025

Amendment to wording made 14/07/25

Admissions

Statement of Policy

The Academy is committed to:

- admitting an intake reflecting all local communities
- resolving a situation where there are many more applications than places available
- providing a consistency of approach in a potentially emotive area
- demonstrating that we are applying our oversubscription criteria equally and fairly
- ensuring that children with special educational needs and disabilities, and vulnerable children are not treated less favourably than other children
- working collaboratively with all schools within the local authority to improve behaviour and reduce exclusions by participating in the writing of and adhering to the Fair Access Protocol.

The aims are:

- to ensure that places are awarded fairly and openly
- to ensure that parents / carers 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 which complies with the School Admission Appeals Code.

Procedures for Reception entry

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 Scheme, as published on Leeds Local Authority's [website](#). Where the Academy receives more applications than places available, the oversubscription criteria 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 60 children for entry in Reception. The Academy will admit up to 60 children in the relevant age group each year if sufficient applications are received. All children will be admitted if 60 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 complete a Previously looked-after child supplementary form (appendix 1) and submit this to the Academy along with a copy of the adoption certificate or court order. If you are unable to access the form, please see Note 1.

The local academy board will decide on prioritisation for a place based on the information received and parents will be informed if the application meets this criterion before the end of February.

- 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 complete an Exceptional need supplementary information form (see note 2 and appendix 2) and submit this directly to the Academy with the supporting evidence. If you are unable to access the form,

please see note 2.

The local academy board will decide on prioritisation for a place based on the information received and parents will be informed if the application meets this criterion before the end of March.

For primary applications only, we will also consider a parent's access needs where they are deemed essential (as described above).

- c) Up to 2 children of staff employed at the Academy, 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. A skill shortage for teachers is a subject / area with a recognised national shortage, and for associate staff a post which has been unstaffed over a prolonged period resulting in multiple advertisements. See note 3 for further details and how to apply.
- d) Children whose siblings live at the same address, currently attend the Academy, and who still be attending the Academy on the date of admission (see note 4 for a definition of sibling).
- e) All other children based on proximity to the Academy using straight-line measurement from the school to the home address (see note 5). The distance measurements use LLPG coordinates for the Academy and the residential property. Straight line distance is then measured between the two sets of coordinates using GIS mapping. The point at your home address is set by the LLPG, which provides coordinates for every property. If the LA are not able to match your address with the LLPG, they will identify a point at the centre of your home.

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 5) 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 6).

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 a 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.

The previously looked-after child supplementary form is required in addition to the submission of a local authority application form. In accordance with the Accessibility Regulations, if you are unable to access the supplementary form but are applying under section a) you must submit evidence of your child's previously looked after status (a copy of the court order and evidence of being in local authority or state care outside England) to the Academy at the time you apply.

2. The Exceptional Need supplementary information form is required in addition to the submission of a local authority application form. In accordance with the Accessibility Regulations, if you are unable to access this form but are applying under section b) you must provide the following information to the Academy at the time you apply:
 - o Your child's name, date of birth and address.
 - o What precise support your child² requires due to their specific needs.
 - o Why only the Academy can provide the support needed to meet your child's needs and why no other school can.
 - o You must attach supporting evidence from an independent professional, such as a medical specialist which confirms exactly what your child's needs are and why, in their view, only this Academy can meet that need and why no other school can. Without this evidence, your child's needs cannot be considered.
3. Children of staff applications must be submitted directly to the Academy via the form provided on the Admissions page of the Academy website. These applications must be submitted by the deadline for the local authority application form to ensure they can be considered prior to the ranking of applications.

An application under children of staff criterion is required in addition to the submission of a local authority application form.

4. In addition to brothers and sisters, the term sibling includes half, adopted, step or foster brothers or sisters living at the same address. It does not include cousins or other family members sharing a house.

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.

² If the application is being made based on your needs, rather than your child's, then the information should explain what your needs are, how admission to the Academy can support those needs and why the Academy is the only school that can meet that need and why no other schools can.



5. '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 children live equally with both parents, the parents must agree which address will be used on the application to Leeds local authority. 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.
6. 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.

Deferred entry

Children are entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday.

Parents who do not feel that their child is ready for full-time education, are advised to speak to the principal about whether starting their schooling on a part-time basis or deferring the start until their child reaches compulsory school age, would be beneficial to their child.

Where entry is deferred, the Academy 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 point at which the child reaches their fifth birthday, nor beyond the beginning of the summer term (in April) of the school year for which a place was offered.

Requests to offset

Information on off-setting is available in the School Admissions section of Leeds local authority's [website](#) and in the document '[Summer Born Children – Starting School: Advice for parents](#)'.

Where parents feel that their summer born child's needs are such that they would benefit from starting school a year later, we advise they speak to the Academy first to find out what is available to meet the needs of the youngest children.

Parents can choose not to send their child to school until the September following their fifth birthday i.e. to start in year 1 rather than Reception. However, if parents wish to apply for off-setting at this Academy, they should use the 'Request to start school out of the chronological age group form' (appendix 3) which is available at the end of this document. In accordance with the Accessibility Regulations, if you are unable to access this form but are applying under section b) you must provide the following information to the Academy at the time you apply:

- o Your child's name, date of birth and address.
- o Detailed reasons why you are applying for offset.
- o You must attach supporting evidence from an independent professional, such as a medical or educational specialist which confirms exactly what your child's needs are and why, in their view, your child would benefit from being offset. Without this evidence, your child's needs cannot be considered.

Parents will still need to apply to the local authority by the deadline for a place in the child's normal age group in case the request is not successful.

Calendar for admission (primary)

November 2025

Local authority information and common application / preference form (CAF / CPF) is made available.

November 2025 – January 2026

Open event - for details of this, please see the Academy website.

15 January 2026

Deadline for receipt of:

- local authorities' common application / preference form (CAF / CPF).
- supplementary information forms and any supporting documentation in relation to applications for previously looked-after children and those applying under exceptional need
- applications under children of staff criterion
- request to offset forms and any documentation relating to the request

16 April 2026

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.

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.

Procedures for Year 7 entry

The admission arrangements are:

- a) There are 112 places in Year 7.
- b) Scholars in Year 6 at the Academy will have an automatic right to transfer into Year 7. Where parents want to apply for a place at a different school, they should still complete the Common Application / Preference Form (CAF / CPF) provided by the local authorities by the stated deadline.
- c) Applications for places at the Academy will be made in accordance with the local authorities Coordinated Admission Scheme, as published on Leeds local authority's [website](#). Where the Academy receives more applications than places available, the oversubscription criteria for admission will apply.
- d) 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 places for 112 children in Year 7. Because the Academy is an all-through Academy, 60 places are automatically available to children already attending the Academy in Year 6. Consequently, the published admission number for the Academy is 52.

The Academy will admit up to 52 children if sufficient applications are received. All children will be admitted if 52 or fewer apply. If any of the Year 6 children do not require a place, their places will be allocated to other children applying up to a total of 112 places.

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 complete a Previously looked-after child supplementary form (appendix 1) and submit this to the Academy along with a copy of the adoption certificate or court order. If you are unable to access the form, please see Note 1.

The local academy board will decide on prioritisation for a place based on the information received and parents will be informed if the application meets this criterion before the end of December.

- 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 complete an Exceptional need supplementary information form (see note 2 and appendix 2) and submit this directly to the Academy with the supporting evidence. If you are unable to access the form, please see note 2.

The local academy board will decide on prioritisation for a place based on the information received and parents will be informed if the application meets this criterion before the end of December.

- c) Up to 2 children of staff employed at the Academy, 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. A skill shortage for teachers is a subject / area with a recognised national shortage, and for associate staff a post which has been unstaffed over a prolonged period resulting in multiple advertisements. See note 3 for further details and how to apply.
- d) Children whose siblings live at the same address, currently attend the Academy, and who will still be attending the Academy on the date of admission (see note 4 for a definition of sibling).
- e) Admission of children based on proximity to the Academy using straight-line measurement from the school to the home address

(see note 5). The distance measurements use LLPG coordinates for the Academy and the residential property. Straight line distance is then measured between the two sets of coordinates using GIS mapping. The point at your home address is set by the LLPG, which provides coordinates for every property. If the LA are not able to match your address with the LLPG, then they will identify a point at the centre of your home.

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 5) 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 6).

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 a special guardianship order and includes those who appear (to the local academy board) to have been in state care outside of England³ and ceased to be so because of being adopted.

The previously looked-after child supplementary form is required in addition to the submission of a local authority application form. In accordance with the Accessibility Regulations, if you are unable to access the supplementary form but are applying under section a) you must submit evidence of your child's previously looked after status (a copy of the court order and evidence of being in local authority or state care outside England) to the Academy at the time you apply.

2. The Exceptional Need supplementary information form is required in addition to the submission of a local authority application form. In accordance with the Accessibility Regulations, if you are unable to access this form but are applying under section b) you must provide the following information to the Academy at the time you apply:

- o Your child's name, date of birth and address.
- o What precise support your child requires due to their specific needs.
- o Why only the Academy can provide the support needed to meet your child's needs and why no other school can.
- o You must attach supporting evidence from an independent professional, such as a medical specialist which confirms exactly what your child's needs are and why, in their view, only this Academy can meet that need and why no other school can. Without this evidence, your child's needs cannot be considered.

3. Children of staff applications must be submitted directly to the Academy via the form provided on the Admissions page of the Academy website. These applications must be submitted by the deadline for the local authority application form to ensure they can be considered prior to the ranking of applications.

An application under children of staff criterion is required in addition to the submission of a local authority application form.

4. In addition to brothers and sisters, the term sibling includes half, adopted, step or foster brothers or sisters living at the same address. It does not include cousins or other family members sharing a house.

5. 'Home address' is identified as the permanent address where the child usually lives with their parent or carer. Where shared care arrangements are in place and children live equally with both parents, the parents must agree which address will be used on the application to Leeds local authority. If the arrangements are not split equally between both parents, then the address used should be the address where the child spends the majority of the school week.

6. 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.

Calendar for admission (secondary)

August / September 2025

Local authority information and common application / preference form (CAF / CPF) is made available.

September / October 2025

Open event - for details of this, please see the Academy website.

³ 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.



31 October 2025

Deadline for receipt of:

- local authorities' common application / preference form (CAF / CPF)
- supplementary information forms and any supporting documentation in relation to applications for previously looked-after children and those applying under exceptional need
- applications under children of staff criterion

2 March 2026

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 the academic year in July 2027.

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:

- In the primary phase (Reception to Year 6) there are 420 places.
- In the secondary phase (Years 7 to 11), there are 560 places.

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.

To apply for a place, go to the Leeds application portal at www.leeds.gov.uk/moveschools to submit an online in-year application to Leeds City Council.

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.

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 (Reception or 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, the local academy board 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 local academy board, via the Admissions Officer, 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
- for key stage 1, whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely.

The local academy board will advise the parent whether the request for admission out of age group has been agreed or the reason for any refusal. Where the local academy board refuses such a request, 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 lists and appeals

Waiting lists

If your child is not offered a place for Reception or Year 7, your child's details will automatically remain on the waiting list for one school year.

For in-year applications, the details will remain on the waiting list until the end of the academic year in which you apply (July). You will need to make a new application in August if you wish to apply for a place for the next academic year (see In Year Admissions section for how to apply).

Where places become available, they will be filled in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

Appeals

All children refused a place have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code. This is a legal process, and places are not 'reserved' for appeal panels to offer.

Appellants can get further details about the appeals process and complete the appeal form by visiting the Leeds local authority's [website](#) or by contacting them via:

Telephone: 0113 222 4414

For queries: [Contact form](#)



Appendix 1

PREVIOUSLY LOOKED-AFTER CHILDREN SUPPLEMENTARY FORM

A previously looked-after child is a child who, immediately after being looked-after, became subject to adoption, a child arrangement order or a special guardianship order and includes those who appear (to the local academy board) to have been in state care outside of England⁴ and ceased to be so because of being adopted.

Please complete this form to requesting priority admissions for a *previously* looked after child. Please do not complete this form if the child is currently looked after by a local authority – the social worker should instead complete the local authority application form.

Year group applied for: (e.g. Reception, Year 1, Year 8)	
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Child's details	
Surname:	
Forename:	
Date of birth:	
Address:	
Postcode:	

Which local authority (or country if you child was adopted from care outside of England) cared for the child immediately before the order was made?
LA / country:

Which court order do you hold for the child?			
Adoption order:		Child arrangement order:	
Special guardianship order:			

Please supply a copy of the order with this form. This information will be shared with the local authority who allocate places at the Academy.

Please turn over

⁴ 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.

Please sign and date this form:

Signed by		Name of parent / carer	
Date			

Checklist:

- Have you answered all the questions?
- Attached a copy of the court order?
- Signed & dated the form?

Please return the form and supporting documents by 31 October 2025:

E-mail: info@dixonstc.com Please type in the subject line 'FAO Admissions Officer'

Post: FAO Admissions Officer, Dixons Trinity Chapeltown, Leopold Street, Chapeltown, Leeds, LS7 4AW

EXCEPTIONAL NEED SUPPLEMENTARY FORM

To be completed when requesting priority under the exceptional medical or social need criterion (see extract below).

Priority b)

Children who have exceptional social or medical need, supported by a written recommendation an independent professional such as the child’s paediatrician / consultant or an independent professional from Children’s Services. The recommendation must explain why the school is the only suitable school to meet the child’s needs⁵ and why no other school could provide the appropriate support for the child.

Year group applied for: (e.g. Reception, Year 1, Year 8)	
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Child’s details	
Surname:	
Forename:	
Date of birth:	
Address:	
Postcode:	

Please describe the child’s exceptional medical or social need in detail:

Please continue overleaf

Please turn over

⁵ If the application is for a place in the primary phase and being made based on your needs, rather than your child’s, then the information should explain what your needs are, how admission to the Academy can support those needs and why the Academy is the only school that can meet that need and why no other schools can.

REQUEST TO START SCHOOL OUT OF THE CHRONOLOGICAL AGE GROUP

This form should only be used by those parents / carers requesting their child starts school in Reception, a full year behind their chronological age group. You should read the information on the webpage '[Summer Born Children Starting School: Advice for parents](#)'.

Those applying for deferred entry or an in-year admission outside the normal year group should follow the process outlined in the Admissions & Appeals Policy.

Parents should be aware that:

- Consideration of the request may be delayed unless this request and any supporting documents you wish to submit are received by the time of the primary school application deadline (15th January).
- The child may only be offset with the agreement of the local academy board (the admission authority) for this Academy. You will also need to make applications to the local authority (for schools for whom they are the admission authority) and / or the admission authorities for any other schools you are applying to.
- If agreed, the child will usually remain offset throughout their educational career and the transfer to secondary school will take place a year later, however, you may need to make an application in Year 5 to a local authority or the admissions authority of a different school, as they may not agree with the decision made by the local academy board. The same will apply if you move house mid-way through your child's education and you apply to other local authorities or admission authorities.
- Should agreement not be given, and you still choose to delay entry, you will need to apply for a place in Year 1; this application will need to be made in June (i.e. prior to the start of the academic year in late August). Allocation will be dependent upon a place being available at the time of application and your child qualifying for a place following application of the oversubscription criteria.

PART 1

Child's details	
Forename / s:	
Surname:	
Date of birth:	

Parent's / Carer's details			
Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss / Other (please state or delete as appropriate)			
Forename:		Surname:	
Child's address:		Your address (if different to the child's):	
Postcode:		Postcode:	
Contact number:			
E-mail address:			

Please turn over

PART 2

Reasons for request. Please state these as fully as possible in the space below and attach separate sheets if necessary.

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Who is supporting the request (tick any that apply)?

Paediatrician	
Educational Psychologist	
Specialist Teacher	
Speech therapist	
Head Teacher / nursery teacher	
Other - please specify the occupation or relationship to the child:	

Please list below any supporting documents you are including with this application:

This form and information will be shared with the local authority who allocate places at the Academy.

Please return the form and supporting documents by:

E-mail: info@dixonstc.com Please type in the subject line 'FAO Admissions Officer'

Post: FAO Admissions Officer, Dixons Trinity Chapeltown, Leopold Street, Chapeltown, Leeds, LS7 4AW