Exceptional need and children of staff criteria application guidance

Exceptional social and medical need

This application form is only to be completed for children who do not have an EHCP, but who have an exceptional medical condition or social need that requires them to attend a specific school.

To be eligible for priority, the information provided must meet the following criterion:

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.

How to apply

The parent / carer needs to submit this application form.

The form is available as an online form, can be downloaded from the Admissions page of the academy's website, or requested via the contact details below.

The form should be accompanied by the recommendation stated in the criterion (above). The recommendation must be:

- Written by a person who is independent i.e. not a relative or friend.
- Explain why the child's needs can *only* be met by the Academy that is being applied for.
- Explain why *no other school* can provide the appropriate support for the child.

If parent's / carer's have any other documents to support their application, they should submit these in addition to the recommendation.

As well as completing this form, you must also list the academy as a preference on your local authority's / council's application form.

For applications at the point of entry (Reception and Year 7), the exceptional need application should be submitted by:

- For applications to start Year 7 in September 2027, the deadline is 31 October 2026.
- For applications to start Reception in September 2027, the deadline is 15 January 2027.
- In-year applications should be submitted at the same time as the in-year application form.

Note: If you are applying for a year 7 place at Dixons City or Dixons Kings academies for September 2027, a supplementary form for the assessment must also be submitted before 3.30pm on 30 September 2026. Forms can be completed at: apply.dixonsacademies.com

Children of staff

This form is for members of staff employed at a Dixons academy who are applying for a place for their child at the academy where they work.

Criterion
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.

The number of children prioritised under this criterion varies; please refer to the Admissions & Appeals policy for the Academy for the specific number.

How to apply

Children of staff applications must be made on the children of staff application form.

The form is available as an online form, can be downloaded from the Admissions page of the academy's website, or requested via the contact details below.

As well as completing this form, you must also list the academy as a preference on your local authority's / council's application form.

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Contact details

E-mail: admissions@dixonsta.com Telephone: 01274 089780 – option 7