

Outcome on the consultation to change the admissions arrangements for Dixons McMillan, Dixons Trinity and Dixons Trinity Chapeltown

Summary of the consultation

Dixons Academies Trust consulted on a proposal to introduce priority for:

- Up to 10% of places will be available for children with an aptitude for cricket. Further details can be found in the section below called 'Cricket places'.

Priority for the places will be given to children who are eligible for pupil premium. If places remain after those children have been considered, these will be offered to any other applicants.

Cricket places

Up to 10% of places are available for children with an aptitude for cricket.

To apply for one of these places, parents must complete the SIF and submit it to the academy by the deadline stated on the form.

All children who apply for these places will be required to attend a cricket assessment session to be considered for a place.

Children will be given a score based on their performance on the day and ranked in the order of their total score, from highest to lowest score. A reserve list of up to 5 children will operate in case any of those ranked in the top 10% do not require a place.

If there are insufficient children who demonstrate the required aptitude to qualify for a cricket place, then fewer than 10% of places will be offered. The minimum score to demonstrate the required aptitude will be advised at the time of application.

Children who are not offered a cricket place will still be considered for one of the remaining places (in the order of the oversubscription criteria), along with any other children applying.

The number of places available at each Academy would be as follows:

- DMA – 13 places (10% of the total number of places; 134)
- DTA – 13 places (10% of the total number of places; 134)
- DTC – 5 places (10% of the total number of places; 52. Of note, because of the transition of year 6 pupils, the 10% can only be of the PAN, and not of the total number of the whole year group.)

Consultation period

The consultation ran from Monday 17 November 2025 to Sunday 4 January 2026.

Responses to the consultation

Respondents were also asked to tick which of the following categories best represented their interest in this consultation.

| | Number of responses | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|----------|-----------|
| | DMA | DTA | DTC |
| Parent | | 2 | 5 |
| School staff | | | |
| Member of the public | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| LA | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Community or religious organisation | | | 2 |
| Politician | | | 1 |
| Other | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 4 | 6 | 13 |

Respondents were also asked to indicate whether they agreed with the current admission arrangements.

| | Number of responses | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------|-----------|
| | DMA | DTA | DTC |
| Yes | | | 6 |
| No | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Maybe | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| No comment / issues | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Total | 4 | 6 | 13 |

Respondents also had the opportunity to add any comments that related to their response. These comments included the following:

Against

Dixons Trinity Academy only

- This seems very unfair to children who are academically proficient in other areas but not sports minded though no fault of their own. It feels like girls are going to be disproportionately disadvantaged by this decision.
- Cricket is a game that mostly boys will participate in by introducing this change I don't believe it's fair for the girls.

Dixons Trinity Chapeltown Academy only

- As a parent, I do not agree with the proposal to allocate up to 10% of school places to children who show an aptitude for cricket. My main concern is that this policy takes places away from local families whose children simply want a fair chance to attend their community school. Not every child has had the opportunity to learn or develop skill in a specific sport, and it feels unfair to limit access based on something so specialised. Even though priority would be given to children who receive the pupil premium, the policy still creates a selective system that only benefits a very small group. Many families, including my own, value an admissions process that treats all children equally, regardless of their sporting background or personal circumstances. I believe school places should be offered in a way that supports all children in the community. Instead of introducing a cricket-aptitude route, I would prefer to see the school investing in inclusive activities and giving every child the chance to discover and develop their interests once they are already part of the school.
- 10% more children that can be cherry picked meanwhile 10% of the local children (most of whom live in deprivation) surrounding these schools have to find education elsewhere.
- Sex Discrimination. When considering the "Cricket place priority", was an assessment undertaken of local participation rates in cricket by sex, and whether this place priority will negatively affect girls? Comments also made about the robustness of the scoring system; whether parents would just use it as an avenue to get a place at a Dixons school; whether the policy meets an aim; why not just prioritise 10% of places for pupils in receipt of PP rather than have cricket places prioritising pupils in receipt of PP.
- The LA has significant concerns that introducing an aptitude criterion will reduce the number of places available to children living in the local community. The Academy currently serves an important role in meeting local demand for school places. Reducing the proportion of places allocated strictly based on distance is likely to disadvantage families who rely on local provision and may undermine the Academy's function as a school for its local community.

For / No issues

All three academies

- The LA does not have any comments or issues regarding the proposed policy. We would appreciate it if the basis for choosing cricket as the aptitude could be shared with the LA with a view for this to be shared with prospective parents within the admission arrangements or on the school website.

Dixons Trinity Chapeltown Academy only

- I am supportive of this proposal because it balances opportunity with fairness. By introducing priority for children who demonstrate an aptitude for cricket, the schools are encouraging talent and widening access to extracurricular pathways that can benefit young people both academically and socially. At the same time, giving priority within this group to children eligible for pupil premium ensures that disadvantaged pupils are not overlooked, and that the initiative actively promotes inclusion and equity. This approach recognises the value of sport in education while making sure that those who may face barriers to opportunity are given a fair chance to benefit. It feels like a thoughtful way to combine excellence with social responsibility, and I am comfortable with the balance it strikes.
- Good 👍 .
- On behalf of Leeds Caribbean Cricket Club, I am writing to express our full support for your proposed allocation of 10% of admissions based on cricket aptitude. This initiative aligns strongly with our own 10-year development plan to revitalise cricket within the inner city of Leeds. As a community club with deep roots in the area, we firmly believe that creating clear pathways for young people to access high-quality cricket opportunities is essential—not only for developing talent, but also for improving



wellbeing, resilience, and aspiration among local children. Dixons Academy's proposal provides exactly the type of structured, long-term commitment that can help transform participation levels in underserved communities. Increasing access to cricket within education is a key pillar of our strategy, and your consultation represents an exciting and progressive step toward reinvigorating the sport across the city. We would welcome any opportunity to collaborate further—whether through coaching partnerships, talent identification, or community engagement initiatives—to ensure this programme reaches its full potential. Thank you for taking a proactive approach to supporting cricket and providing new opportunities for young people in Leeds. We are pleased to endorse this proposal and look forward to working together to strengthen cricket in our community.

- This sounds like a very innovative process.

Next steps

The Board of Trustees reviewed the responses to the outcome and considered the factors above. They also considered the rationale for making this change, which is as follows:

In accordance with the School Admissions Code (paragraph 1.24), this policy enables the Academy to select up to 10% of its intake by aptitude in a specific sport, which for our context is cricket. This specialism is a direct application of our mission to challenge inequality. It creates a transformative, inclusive pathway in a sport that is the optimal fit for our communities, building on strong local talent pools. As an inclusive, skill-based sport, the programme will develop aptitude across boys', girls', and disability cricket. Building on the model of our established performing arts specialisms, this is the first in a series of planned performance pathways within our all-through Trust, designed to keep aspiration on track and open doors to future success for the students we serve.

On balance they agreed with the revision to the admissions arrangements and will subsequently determine the revised admissions arrangements for the academies for the academic year 2027-28, in line with the requirements of the School Admissions Code.