

Annex 1

Requirements for the Admissions of Pupils at

Dixons McMillan Academy (“the Academy”)

GENERAL

1. This Annex may be amended in writing at any time by agreement between the Secretary of State and the Dixons Academies Charitable Trust Ltd (“the Company”).

2. Except as provided in paragraphs 2A to 3 below the (“the Company will act in accordance with, and will ensure that an Independent Appeal Panel is trained to act in accordance with, all relevant provisions of the School Admissions Code and the School Admission Appeals Code published by the Department for Education (“the Codes”) as they apply at any given time to maintained schools and with equalities law and the law on admissions as they apply to maintained schools. For this purpose, reference in the Codes or legislation to “admission authorities” shall be deemed to be references to the governing body of the Company.

2A The Company is permitted to determine admission arrangements that give priority for admission (but not above looked after children and previously looked after children¹) to other children attracting the pupil premium, including the service premium (“the pupil premium admission criterion”). Where the Company exercises this freedom it will provide information in its admission arrangements of eligibility for the premiums.

2B For the purposes of applying the pupil premium admission criterion only, sections 1.9(f) and 2.4(a) of the School Admissions Code (2012) do not apply insofar as they prevent admission authorities from giving priority to children according to the financial or occupational status of parents or using supplementary forms that ask for:

- (a) any personal details about their financial status; or
- (b) whether parents are serving in the armed forces (of any nation), stationed in England, and exercising parental care and responsibility for the child in question.

¹ As defined in the School Admissions Code.

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2C The Academy Trust is also permitted by the Secretary of State to determine admission arrangements that give priority for admission (but not above looked after children and previously looked after children) to children whose parents have permitted Founders status. The Academy Trust should ensure that they grant Founders status according to the requirements of Charity law, which permit special provision to be made for a small group of the general beneficiaries of the Charity providing that the greatest benefit is to the wider community. The Academy Trust should only grant Founders status to a parent or guardian whom the Company has identified in its discretion as having genuinely played a material role in setting up the school and, where appropriate, whose continued role is deemed by the Company to be needed to establish the school in its early years for the benefit of the public as a whole.

2D In relation to the school's 2016 and 2017 admission arrangements only, in recognition of the urgent need for post 16 places in the area, the Academy Trust is permitted to adopt post 16 admission arrangements without being required to consult in accordance with paragraphs 1.42-1.49 of the School Admissions Code ('the Code'). It is not permitted to change these, however, once published without consulting in accordance with the Code. The post 16 admission policy is considered to be determined as soon as it is published on the school's website and/ or in the local authority admissions prospectus.

3. Notwithstanding the generality of paragraph 2 of this Annex, the Company will not participate in the co-ordinated admission arrangements operated by the LA for the first year of opening but will participate in such arrangements operated by the LA in subsequent years and the local Fair Access Protocol.

4. Notwithstanding any provision in this Annex, the Secretary of State may:

(a) direct the Company to admit a named pupil to the Academy on application from a LA. This will include complying with a School Attendance Order². Before doing so the Secretary of State will consult the Company.

(b) direct the Company to admit a named pupil to the Academy if the Company has failed to act in accordance with this Annex or has otherwise failed to comply with applicable admissions and equalities legislation or the provisions of the Codes.

² Local authorities are able to issue school attendance orders if a child is not attending school. These are legally binding upon parents. Such an order might, for instance, be appropriate where a child has a place at an Academy but his/her parents are refusing to send him/her to school. The order will require a parent to ensure his/her child attends a specified school.

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(c) direct the Company to amend its admission arrangements where they fail to comply with the School Admissions Code or the Admission Appeals Code.

5. The Company shall ensure that parents and ‘relevant children³’ will have the right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel if they are dissatisfied with an admission decision of the Company. The Independent Appeal Panel will be independent of the Company. The arrangements for appeals will comply with the School Admission Appeals Code published by the Department for Education as it applies to Foundation and Voluntary Aided schools. The determination of the appeal panel is binding on all parties.

Relevant Area

6. Subject to paragraph 7, the meaning of “Relevant Area” for the purposes of consultation requirements in relation to admission arrangements is that determined by the local authority for maintained schools in the area in accordance with the Education (Relevant Areas for Consultation on Admission Arrangements) Regulations 1999.

7. If the Company does not consider the relevant area determined by the local authority for the maintained schools in the area to be appropriate, it must apply to the Secretary of State by 1 August for a determination of the appropriate relevant area for the Academy, setting out the reasons for this view. The Secretary of State will consult the Company and the LA in which the Academy is situated in reaching a decision.

Requirement to admit pupils

8. Pupils on roll in any predecessor maintained or independent school will transfer automatically to the Academy on opening. All children already offered a place at any predecessor school will be admitted.

9. The Academy will:

- a. subject to its right of appeal to the Secretary of State in relation to a named pupil, admit all pupils with a statement of special educational needs naming the Academy;

³ relevant children’ means:

- a) in the case of appeals for entry to a sixth form, the child, and;
- b) in any other case, children who are above compulsory school age, or will be above compulsory school age by the time they start to receive education at the school.

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- b. adopt admission oversubscription criteria that give highest priority to looked after children, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the School Admissions Code.

Oversubscription criteria, admission number, consultation, determination and objections.

10. The Academy admission arrangements will include oversubscription criteria, and an admission number for each relevant age group⁴. The Company will consult on its admission arrangements and determine them in line with the requirements within the School Admissions Code.

11. The Company must make it clear, when determining the Academy's admission arrangements, that objections should be submitted to the Schools Adjudicator.

12. A determination of an objection by the Schools Adjudicator will be binding upon the Company.

⁴ 'Relevant age group' means 'normal point of admission to the school: for example, year R, Year7 and Year 12.