

Title: Dixons Trinity Academy
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Impact Assessment – Section 9 Academies Act Duty

Section 9 of the Academies Act 2010 places a duty upon the Secretary of State to take into account what the impact of establishing the additional school would be likely to be on maintained schools, Academies and institutions within the further education sector in the area in which the additional school is (or is proposed to be) situated. Any adverse impact will need to be balanced against the benefits of establishing the new school.

Background

Dixon Trinity Academy is a co-educational secondary school proposed to open on the same site as the Dixons Music Primary. It will initially admit 112 pupils into Year 7 in 2012, reaching 720 pupils at full capacity by 2018.

Dixons Trinity Academy will be run by the Dixons City Academy Trust. The Trust runs two existing secondary Academies in Bradford. Dixons City Academy is an 11-18 school. It was rated outstanding by Ofsted at its last inspection in 2011 and is heavily oversubscribed. The Trust also sponsored the conversion of Dixons Allerton Academy in 2009. The Trust plans to open both Dixons Trinity Academy and a new primary Free School (Dixons Music Primary) on the same site in the BD5 area of Bradford in September 2012.

As part of their consultation, the Trust wrote to the Local Authority, local schools, families and other interested parties about Dixons Music Primary and Dixons Trinity Academy. They also used their website to release new information as it became available, for example on the location and site of the two schools, and held an open public meeting.

The Trust received representations from four secondary schools, three of which were in favour of the new Free School, citing the need for additional secondary places in Bradford. One school raised concerns over using fair banding in the Dixons admissions arrangements which it felt would skew the intake of other schools. Dixons refutes this and is clear that fair banding is operated to achieve an even distribution of abilities among pupils they admit. This should not impact on the pupil population of any one school. DfE have not received any representations from any schools.

Admissions policy, catchment area and character

The Dixons Trinity Academy's admissions policy is fully compliant with the School Admissions Code. After children with a statement of Special Educational Needs, if the school is over-subscribed, priority will be given in the following order:

- Looked After Children who apply to the school, will be offered a place.
- In addition to this, governors may grant a place to a child with a very

exceptional medical or social need on the written recommendation of an independent professional.

- Children who live within the defined city-wide catchment area i.e. Bradford post codes BD1 through to BD12, BD14, BD15, BD17 and BD18.
- Children who show a particular aptitude (i.e. potential) for Music (up to 10% of the intake number).
- Children whose siblings at the time of application will be within Years 7 to 10 at the Academy. The term sibling includes legally adopted children, and step- and half-siblings living at the same address. Other children on the basis of independently scrutinised random selection.

All applicants will take a non-verbal reasoning assessment to divide them into nine bands. The school will admit the required number from each band based on the spread of ability of those applying for September 2012. For example, if 20% of those applying are identified in band 5, then 20% of the intake has to be from this band. The assessment is done to ensure that the school's pupils are fully representative of the whole ability range, and is consistent with the approach of the current Academy.

Local Authority opinion

The Department wrote to the LA on 8 December 2011 to seek their views on Dixons Trinity Academy and received a response on 1 February 2012. Based upon their projection that additional secondary places are needed to cope with an expanding population in Bradford, and the new Free School will ease pressure on the over-subscribed Dixons City Academy, the LA is supportive of Dixons Trinity Academy.

The LA also stated that they look forward to further involvement of the leadership of Dixons City Academy, which they refer to as 'a consistently high performing secondary'. They commented that Dixons: "have been involved in sponsoring other Academies in the District and have worked in partnership with the Local Authority in supporting schools that have previously underperformed. We look forward to their further involvement in developing educational opportunities in the District".

Basic need

With a rapidly expanding population in the city, Bradford has a shortage of both secondary and primary places, and the Local Authority estimates that two or three new secondary schools will be needed by 2018 together with significant expansion of the primary sector. The table below sets out the projected growth in secondary school-aged pupils in Bradford between 2010/11 and 2017/18. It shows that population is projected to grow by 14.1% between 2010/11 and 2017/18. In addition, if no new provision was added in this period, there would be a shortage of school places equivalent to 5.5% of current total capacity.

		Academic year 2010/11		Academic year 2017/18		2010/11 – 2017/18
LA	Number of places in 2011	No. of pupils	Surplus %	No. of pupils	Surplus %	% increase in populatio n
Bradford	37,757	34,999	7.3%	39,828	-5.5%	14.1%

Source: 2011 SCAP data

Given the need for secondary places across Bradford, and absence of any serious representations made during the consultation and based on the outcome of the consultation it would appear unlikely that any single school is likely to suffer uniquely or significantly as a result of the creation of Dixons Trinity Academy.

Impact on maintained schools, Alternative Provision and Academies

Dixons Trinity Academy is situated in central Bradford. The Free School has a city-wide catchment, but based on the fact that over 80% of pupils attending secondary school in Bradford typically travel two and half miles or less to get to school, a significant majority of its pupils is likely to come within the two-and-a-half-mile radius. We will therefore consider the impact on the 14 secondary schools within this radius.

This shows that the Free School should have a minimal impact on eight schools and a moderate impact on six schools, but that no single school is likely to suffer uniquely or significantly as a result of the creation of Dixons Trinity Academy.

The existing Dixons City Academy is oversubscribed by a ratio of 8:1. It is anticipated that the new Dixons Trinity Academy will allow Dixons Academy Trust to offer more places to parents who had initially shown an interest in attending Dixons City Academy but were not granted a place in the current admission round. Given the popularity of the existing Dixons Academy, it is likely that parents will choose the Free School over some existing schools. However, the city-wide admissions policy and the current basic need for places mean that the impact felt will be minimal.

The table below sets out the individual impact on the fourteen secondary schools within a two-and-a-half-mile radius of the proposed site.

Schools with a moderate rating			
School name	Distance (miles)	Ofsted	KS4 attainment 5A*-C GCSEs %
Carlton Bolling College	1.44	Satisfactory	43

Bradford Academy	1.46	Satisfactory	37
The Challenge College	1.96	Satisfactory	34
Hanson School	2.34	Inadequate	33
Dixons Allerton Academy	2.39	Satisfactory	43
Thornton Grammar School	2.5	Inadequate	44
Schools with a minimal rating			
School name	Distance (miles)	Ofsted	KS4 attainment 5A*-C GCSEs %
Dixons City Academy	0.42	Outstanding	80
Grange Technology College	1.01	Good	39
Kings Science Academy	1.21	Not available	-
Feversham College (Girls, faith school)	1.51	Outstanding	55
St Joseph's Catholic College	1.8	Satisfactory	57
Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College	1.94	Satisfactory	37
Laisterdyke Business and Enterprise College	2.04	Satisfactory	41
St Bede's Catholic Grammar School	2.28	Satisfactory	42

Schools with a minimal impact rating

Of the eight schools assessed as feeling minimal impact, two are rated as outstanding, one of which is Dixons' existing City Academy, the other, Feversham College, is a girls-only Muslim faith school, and both are operating at capacity.

One school is rated as good and has a minimal number of surplus places. The remaining four are rated as satisfactory; of these, two are Catholic faith schools and therefore unlikely to lose pupils to the new, non-faith school; the

others are both specialist business and enterprise colleges, and therefore unlikely to lose pupils to a school which does not share their specialism. All four are either at full capacity or have very small surplus.

One further school likely to feel a minimal impact is Kings Science Academy - an Ofsted report is not available for this school, as it has only been open since 2011.

Schools with a moderate impact rating

The following section summarises the potential impact on schools which have experience a moderate impact as a result of the new Free School. Any predicted loss of pupils to the new Free School may be mitigated by the increased demand for secondary places over the next few years.

Carlton Bolling College community school, Bradford

We consider that the impact on this school will be moderate.

The school is a 1490-place co-educational community secondary school. It had a small surplus of 2.4% of total capacity in 2010/11. The school was slightly oversubscribed for entry 2011/12 with 258 applicants for 240 places.

It was rated as satisfactory by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2010.

The school has Key Stage 4 attainment below the national figure – 43% of pupils achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths GCSE in 2010/11 compared with 58% nationally.

Carlton Bolling College is located just over a mile from the proposed site, less than the average distance travelled to secondary school in Bradford (1.5 miles) so in principle may lose more pupils than schools further away.

However, Carlton Bolling College is running at just under capacity, with four surplus places out of 1451, and was oversubscribed for entry in 2011/12. As its size is substantial, if Dixons Trinity Academy were to attract pupils who would have otherwise gone to the College, it is likely they would be replaced, and with such a high capacity the College should be well-placed to manage potential loss. In addition, attainment at Key Stage 4 has been improving, from 26% in 2008 to 43% in 2011, so we do not expect the potential loss of pupils to the new school to be large enough to affect the long-term viability of the school.

Bradford Academy, Bradford

We consider that the impact on this school will be moderate.

The school is a sponsor-led Academy, with a Christian ethos, which opened in 2007. The school is a 1,600-place co-educational secondary school with 205 per year group. The school had a relatively large surplus of around 21% of

total capacity in 2010/11. The school was significantly oversubscribed for entry 2011/12 with 517 applicants for the 205 places.

The school was rated as satisfactory by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2011.

The school has Key Stage 4 attainment well below the national figure – 37% of pupils achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths GCSE in 2010/11 compared with 58% nationally.

The school is located just under the average distance travelled to secondary school in Bradford (1.5 miles), so in principle could lose more potential pupils to the new school than schools further away.

Although the school has a relatively large surplus, it was significantly oversubscribed for entry in 2011/12 so even if it does lose some potential pupils to the new school it should still be able to fill all of its places. It is also a faith school, so parents wanting to send their children to this school may not be interested in a Free School that does not have a faith ethos. Parents may also be attracted by the academy status of the school. We therefore do not expect the opening of the Free School to affect the long-term financial viability of the school.

The Challenge College community school, Bradford

We consider that the impact on this school will be moderate.

The school is a 1,047-place co-educational secondary school, with 160 per year group. The school had a surplus of 8% of total capacity in 2010/11. It was oversubscribed for entry in 2011/12 with 177 applicants for 160 places.

The school was rated as satisfactory by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2011.

The school has Key Stage 4 attainment below the national figure – 34% of pupils achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths GCSE in 2011 compared with 58% nationally.

The school is located almost two miles from the proposed site of Dixons Trinity Academy, almost half a mile above the average distance travelled to secondary school in Bradford, so in principle could lose fewer pupils to the new school than schools which are nearer. Although there is some surplus capacity in the school, it was oversubscribed for entry in 2011/12 so even if it does lose some potential pupils to the new school it should still be able to fill most of its places. We therefore do not expect the opening of Dixons Trinity Academy to affect the long-term financial viability of the school.

Hanson School foundation school, Bradford

We consider that the impact on this school will be moderate.

The school is a 1837-place co-educational secondary school with a

technology specialism, with 300 per year group. It had a small surplus of 1.6% of total capacity in 2010/11. The school was oversubscribed for entry in 2011/12 with 314 applicants for 300 places.

The school was rated as inadequate and put into special measures by Ofsted in 2010.

The school has Key Stage 4 attainment below the national figure – 33% of pupils achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths GCSE in 2011 compared with 58% nationally.

The school is located over two miles from the proposed site of the Free School, almost a mile above the average distance travelled to secondary school in Bradford, so in principle could lose fewer pupils to the new school than schools which are nearer. Additionally, the school has little surplus capacity and was oversubscribed for entry in 2011/12 so even if it does lose some potential pupils to the new school it should still be able to fill all of its places. We therefore do not expect the opening of Dixons Trinity Academy to affect the long-term financial viability of the school.

Dixons Allerton Academy, Bradford

We consider that the impact on this school will be moderate.

The school became a Dixons sponsored academy in September 2009. It is a 1,047-place co-educational secondary school, with 240 per year group. It had a surplus of 20% of total capacity in 2010/11. The school was oversubscribed for entry in 2011/12 with 291 applicants for 240 places.

The school is rated as satisfactory by Ofsted and has Key Stage 4 attainment below the national figure – 43% of pupils achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths GCSE in 2011 compared with 58% nationally. As such, parents may be attracted to an alternative.

However, the school is located over two miles from the proposed site of Dixons Trinity Academy, almost a mile above the average distance travelled to secondary school in Bradford, so in principle could lose fewer pupils to the new school than schools which are nearer. Although the school has a large surplus capacity, it was oversubscribed for entry in 2011/12 so even if it does lose some potential pupils to the new school it should still be able to fill all of its places. Parents may be attracted by the academy status of the school. We therefore do not expect the opening of the Free School to affect the long term financial viability of the school. This school is also run by the Dixons Academy Trust who are confident that any impact will not affect the long-term viability of the school.

Thornton Grammar School, foundation school, Bradford

We consider that the impact on this school will be moderate.

The school is a 1,718-place co-educational secondary school, with 260 per year group. It had a surplus of 11.6% of total capacity in 2010/11. The school was oversubscribed for entry in 2011/12 with 491 applicants for 260 places.

The school was rated as satisfactory by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2010. The school has Key Stage 4 attainment below the national figure – 44% of pupils achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths GCSE in 2011 compared with 58% nationally.

The school is located two and a half miles from the proposed site of Dixons Trinity Academy, a mile above the average distance travelled to secondary school in Bradford, so in principle could lose fewer pupils to the new school than schools which are nearer. Although the school has a relatively large surplus capacity, it was oversubscribed for entry in 2011/12 so even if it does lose some potential pupils to the new school it should still be able to fill all of its places. We therefore do not expect the opening of the Free School to affect the long-term financial viability of the school.

Conclusion

Taking into account the projected shortage of secondary places in the coming years, and the relatively small size of Dixons Trinity Academy, the impact on individual schools is likely to be negligible. Bradford LA supports this view.

The establishment of Dixons Trinity Academy is likely to have a positive impact in improving parental choice by widening the number and type of places available in local secondary state provision, and by driving up standards in surrounding schools. Both of these features are key aims of the Free Schools policy and we would expect Dixons Trinity Academy to drive up standards in schools across the board, improving standards for all young people in the area.

Given all this information, we consider that the Dixons Trinity Academy will have a positive impact on maintained schools, Academies and FE institutions in the surrounding area. It will both increase parental choice and drive up standards in nearby institutions by providing much needed additional places.