

Fair Banding Assessment Supplementary Guidance

This information relates to entry into Year 7 in 2021

Final deadline for completing and submitting the Fair Banding Registration form is Monday 14 September 2020

Before continuing, please view our Fair Banding video for a full explanation of how Fair Banding works - <https://halifax.trinitymat.org/about-us/admissions-prospectus/>

For entry into Year 7 in 2021, parents have to include Trinity Academy Halifax (TAH) and/or Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge (TASB) in their five preferences on the local authority's Common Application Form (CAF); **please note, an application to sit our Fair Banding Assessment is not an application to attend the school – please refer to your local authority's website for information on how to apply for a place at a Calderdale secondary school.**

<https://www.calderdale.gov.uk/v2/residents/education-and-learning/schools/admissions>

For pupils interested in applying for a place at either TAH or TASB, parents/carers will also need to register their child to sit a non-verbal reasoning assessment (a Fair Banding Assessment) on Saturday 3 October 2020. Any applicants, including late applicants, who miss the first Fair Banding Assessment will be given a further opportunity to sit it on Saturday 21 November 2020.

Applicants who sit the Fair Banding Assessment are considered for admission first.

Note: Applicants can only sit the Fair Banding Assessment once.

Any applicants who choose not to sit the Fair Banding Assessment will be 'non-banded' and will be ranked in order of priority (after all of the banded applicants), with the level of priority then determined with reference to the oversubscription criteria (see the Admissions Policy relating to your school of preference).

The results of this assessment will be used for the purpose of assisting the academy in placing applicants into one of four bands (1-4) dependent on their Fair Banding Assessment score. The boundaries of each band reflect national benchmarks. We will admit the required number from each band based on the spread of ability of those applying.

The assessment is externally set by a well-established educational assessment agency and the papers are collected by the agency to be marked. The academies are then provided with a list of each child's assessment mark, similar to an IQ score, with 100 being the average. The marks are divided into four bands and we are instructed how many children to take from each band e.g. if 40% of those applying are identified in band 2, then 40% of our intake has to be from this band. This ensures that the places offered reflect the ability range of our applicants.

The assessment is not a traditional entrance exam which children either pass or fail. It is done to ensure that our intake exactly matches the ability profile of the children applying.

TAH offers 330 places each year.

TASB offers 180 places each year.

Fair Banding Assessment Window 1:

The parents of pupils interested in applying to TAH or TASB need to complete a Fair Banding Assessment Registration Form – please follow this link:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=CCE9ruiSt0Cc_JtGPyH9N8pJSR-t2KpPjnzDziREDe9UMFFIOTRGVDRYRDhHVEpPMDBSNDRIOUVBRI4u

A hard copy of the form can also be obtained directly from either academy.

Registration forms are available for completion from the beginning of May to the deadline of **Monday 14 September 2020**. The assessments for these pupils will take place on **Saturday 3 October 2020**.

Parents/carers of children who sit the Fair Banding Assessment in October will be informed of their child's score (and the band they have been allocated to) prior to the national deadline for secondary school applications. Parents/carers of children who sit the later Fair Banding Assessment will also be informed of their child's score (and the band they have been allocated to).

The admission assessment will consist of a nationally validated assessment, supplied by a recognised body such as GL Assessment. The assessment is a predictor of future performance and as such does not rely upon material that will be covered in the primary school curriculum. The results from the assessment are standardised and aged-weighted. Exemplar material, including examples of assessment questions, is available from the academy's website or can be obtained directly from the academy.

Parents must submit their child's secondary school application to their own Local Authority by October 31st 2020. The Local Authority will then allocate places according to the coordinated scheme and parents will be notified of the offer on 1 March 2021.

The coordinated scheme in Calderdale is administered as an equal preference scheme. This means that parents express a preference for up to five schools on the Common Application Form (CAF) and although they are ranked in order, they are given equal preference. The LA will operate the scheme and coordinate admissions by sending every preference to the admission authorities without reference to the rating on the CAF. Therefore, schools will offer places based on their oversubscription criteria which cannot include 'first preference first'. The ranking is used to discriminate between preferences if two or more schools are able to offer a place, then the highest preference is offered.