



Fair Banding Assessment Supplementary Guidance
Trinity Academy Halifax (TAH)
Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge (TASB)



**This information relates to entry into Year 7 in 2022
Final deadline for completing and submitting the Fair Banding Registration Form is
Monday 20 September 2021**

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

For pupils interested in applying for a place at either TAH or TASB, parents/carers will need to register their child to sit a non-verbal reasoning assessment (a Fair Banding Assessment) no later than Monday 20 September 2021. The assessment will take place on Saturday 9 October 2021.

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

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

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.

Important information - an application to sit our Fair Banding Assessment is not an application to attend a Trinity 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>

How to register to sit the Fair Banding Assessment:

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://tinyurl.com/TrinityFB2022>

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

Registration forms are available for completion from the beginning of June to the deadline of **Monday 20 September 2021**. The Fair Banding Assessments will take place on **Saturday 9 October 2021**.

Parents/carers of children who sit the Fair Banding Assessment in October will be informed of the band their child has been allocated to prior to the national deadline for secondary school applications.

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.

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.