

Admissions consultation – Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge (TASB)



Context

TASB joined the Trinity Multi-Academy Trust (MAT), a high-performing Church of England MAT, on 1 October 2018. Before this the school had been called Sowerby Bridge High School (SBHS) and was under local authority control.

In the last academic year, under the leadership of Trinity MAT, TASB has been transformed into a high-performing secondary academy. Its Progress 8 measure (the headline figure for secondary schools, used to judge their overall effectiveness) improved from **-0.47** to **+0.40**. This meant that the academy was in the top 1% of the most improved schools nationally, with a Progress 8 improvement of **+0.87** in just one year. That improvement has also placed TASB second in the Calderdale secondary league tables, behind only Trinity Academy Halifax (**+0.59**).

Note: for reference, the full list of secondary outcomes is published on the reverse of this document.

Current position

The local governing body (LGB) of TASB has recently decided to consult stakeholders with regard to changing its Admissions Policy, specifically the criteria for oversubscription. There are numerous changes, the two major ones being as follows:

1. The academy has made the decision to introduce a Fair Banding Assessment.

Our aim is to ensure that our intake is representative of the full ability range and exactly matches the ability profile of the children applying.

To achieve this, all applicants (who have applied by the deadline) are invited to take a non-verbal reasoning assessment to divide them into 4 ability bands, from Band 1 at the bottom up to Band 4 at the top. 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-respected educational assessment agency and the papers are collected by the agency to be marked. The academy is 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 180 places we offer 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 we take a fair number of children across the whole ability range.

2. The academy has also made the decision to include the following seven feeder primary schools into its admissions policy:
 - Akroydon Primary Academy
 - Christ Church Church of England (VA) Junior School (Sowerby Bridge)
 - Norland Church of England (VA) Primary School
 - Sowerby Bridge Church of England (VC) Primary School
 - Holy Trinity Church of England (VA) Primary School
 - Triangle Church of England (VC) Primary School
 - St Mary's Church of England (VC) J&I School (Sowerby Bridge)

This will enable the academy to prioritise local Church of England primary schools, which ties into its current consultation on potential religious designation.

Note: the consultation on religious designation will finish well in advance of this consultation, and therefore its findings will be taken into account by the governing body when it also considers this admissions consultation.

The admissions consultation process will run from Monday 3 December to Monday 28 January inclusive. This will include an information evening (hosted at the school) at 3.45pm and 6.30pm on Thursday 20th December.

At that evening I will present a more detailed rationale of this proposal. If you have any questions, or would like to make a contribution to the consultation, please contact the school using the following email address - SGaskin@sowerby.trinitymat.org

Charlie Johnson
Principal – Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge

Calderdale secondary school performance tables 2018

Note: Progress 8 measures the progress of all pupils in a school across English, mathematics, sciences, history, geography, modern foreign language and up to three other subjects. It is recognised as the main measure when judging the effectiveness of any secondary schools.

Ranking	Name of institution	Progress 8 score	P8 description
1	Trinity Academy Halifax	+0.59	Well above average
2	Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge	+0.40	Above average
3	Crossley Heath Grammar School	+0.39	Above average
4	Rastrick High School	+0.37	Above average
5	The Halifax Academy	+0.30	Above average
6	Calder High School	+0.20	Above average
7	Ryburn Valley High School	+0.15	Average
8	North Halifax Grammar School	-0.04	Average
9	Brighouse High School	-0.13	Average
10	Brooksbank High School	-0.27	Below average
10	Todmorden High School	-0.27	Below average
12	Lightcliffe Academy	-0.42	Below average
13	Park Lane Academy	-1.25	Well below average
LA avg.		+0.06	
National avg.		-0.02	

Data taken from latest Department for Education (DfE) School Performance Tables:

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=default&table=schools®ion=381&laname=calderdale&geographic=la&for=secondary&basedon=Overall%20performance&show=All%20pupils&datasetfilter=provisional&searchtype=&laname=calderdale>