



Fair Banding Assessment Supplementary Guidance
Trinity Academy St Edward's (TASE)

This information relates to entry into Year 7 in 2025
Final deadline for completing and submitting the Fair Banding Registration Form is
Friday 20 September 2024

For students interested in applying for a place at TASE, parents/carers will need to register their child to sit a non-verbal reasoning assessment (a Fair Banding Assessment) no later than Friday 20th September 2024. The assessment will take place either in your child's primary school (where the primary permits) or on Saturday 12th October 2024 and an additional 'mop-up' session will take place on 12th November 2024.

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

Applicants who sit the Fair Banding Assessment will be considered for admission first, apart from LAC children and children in receipt of an EHCP (Education Health Care Plan).

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). This does not apply to LAC children and children in receipt of an EHCP who are not required to sit the assessment but who will have priority over all other banded and unbanded applicants).

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. This does not mean that we select those with the highest scores. Selection is based on a spread across all ability ranges.

For children with SEND or any child who feels that they are unable to sit the assessment for whatever reason, at the request of a primary school or parent/carer, additional steps will be taken to ensure reasonable adjustments are made to the assessment or an alternative (more appropriate) assessment is sought. This could take the form of a teacher assessment where Trinity Academy St Edward's would contact your child's primary school to request a predicted band allocation for your child.

TASE offers 180 places for Year 7 in academic year 2025/26.

How to register to sit the Fair Banding Assessment:

The parents of pupils interested in applying to TASE need to complete a Fair Banding Assessment Registration Form – please follow this link <https://forms.office.com/e/Tt8myQcRTP> here. A hard copy of the form can also be obtained directly from the academy.

Registration forms are available for completion from 21 June 2024 to the deadline of Friday 20th September 2024.

Trinity schools work collaboratively with many local primary schools to arrange for their Year 6 children to sit the assessment in the familiar surroundings of their own classroom, where children feel more comfortable. Please contact your local primary school to establish if they are working with us. If your child attends a school where the assessment is not administered in-house, you will be informed via email and invited to sit the assessment at Trinity Academy St Edward's.

Parents/carers of children who sit the Fair Banding Assessment in September/October will be informed of their child's band they have been allocated to prior to the national deadline for secondary school applications. If your child did not have the opportunity to sit the assessment in primary or on the Saturday assessment session and instead sat the assessment at the 'mop-up' session in early November, parents/carers will not be informed of your child's band prior to the national deadline for secondary school applications. However, parents/carers should still complete the online admissions form through Barnsley Council admissions by the 31st October 2024.

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 our academy websites or can be obtained directly from TASE.

Important information for all parents/carers:

Parents/carers of Year 6 primary school children (regardless of which school they wish to attend) must also complete the Barnsley Authority's Common Application Form (CAF) for Admissions. Please refer to Barnsley Local Authority's website for information on how to apply for a place at a secondary school – Closing date 31 October 2024.

<https://barnsley.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/Synergy/Parents/default.aspx>