



Fair Banding Assessment Supplementary Guidance
Trinity Academy Cathedral

**This information relates to entry into Year 7 in 2027
Final deadline for completing and submitting the Fair Banding Registration Form is
21 September 2026.**

Before continuing, please view our Fair Banding video for a full explanation of how Fair Banding works - follow this link <https://vimeo.com/654067744/e6d417b1cd>

For pupils interested in applying for a place at TAC, parents/carers will need to register their child to sit a non-verbal reasoning assessment (a Fair Banding Assessment) no later than 21 September 2026. The assessment will take place on Saturday 10 October.

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.

For children with SEND - 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.

TAC offers 210 places each year.

How to register to sit the Fair Banding Assessment:

The parents of pupils interested in applying to TAC need to complete a Fair Banding Assessment Registration Form – please follow this link [Fair Banding Assessment Registration Form \(2027 intake\) – Fill in form](#). A hard copy of the form can also be obtained directly from the academy.

Registration forms are available for completion from 15 June 2026 to the deadline of 21 September 2026.

Trinity schools work collaboratively with many local primary schools to arrange for their Y6 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 Cathedral.

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.

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 TAC.

Important information for all parents/carers:

Parents/carers of Y6 primary school children (regardless of which school they wish to attend) must also complete the application form for their home Local Authority. In Wakefield, this is the online common application form for secondary school admissions. If you live outside of Wakefield, you should complete their application process and preference Trinity Academy Cathedral in Wakefield.

For Wakefield please refer to Wakefield Local Authority's website for information on how to apply for a place at a secondary school – Closing date 31 October 2026.

<https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/schools-and-education/schools/school-admissions/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place/>