



TRINITY SCHOOL

Admissions Policy

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1 Introduction and Aims

Trinity School is academically selective and offers places to applicants whose ability and attitude is in keeping with the School's ethos and academic tradition. The admissions procedure is intended to provide a fair means of assessment to all applicants who wish to gain access to Trinity. The School does not discriminate against any applicant on grounds of ethnic origin, religious persuasion, sexual orientation or disability.

2 The Entry Points

Trinity's usual points of entry are 10+, 11+, 13+ and 16+. Under special circumstances students may join at other ages, provided a place is available. Entry is primarily academically selective by entrance examination results, interview and references. Applicants should normally be under 11 (for 10+), under 12 (for 11+), under 14 (for 13+), under 17 (for 16+) on 1 September in the proposed year of entry and must be in the appropriate school year/class at the time of the examination.

The School also offers 13+ pre-testing for students in Year 6 who wish to join the School in Year 9. A successful applicant would receive an offer for entry in September of Year 9 on the condition that the applicant continues to make good academic progress and has a satisfactory pastoral report. Trinity will ask for the applicant's school reports from the end of Year 7 as supporting evidence at this time. Applicants must declare their intention to enter either for 11+ or for 13+ pre-testing. Completion of the 13+ Pre-Testing Declaration Form will confirm this intent.

Entrance into the Sixth Form for all 16+ applicants is based on the entrance examinations, entrance interviews, personal statement, references and also the requirement to achieve at least six A grades (grade 7 or above) in the applicant's GCSE examinations.

3 Entry into Trinity Sixth Form for existing students

The vast majority of students in the 5th Year at Trinity will move into our Sixth Form. This is not automatic however, as there are three requirements that students need to fulfil:

Firstly, although the vast majority of our Sixth Form students will have achieved 7, 8 and 9 grades in most of their GCSE subjects, students will be able to join the Sixth Form if they achieve at least six grade 7s in their GCSE exams. This hurdle is set at a level so that any Trinity student who passes our entrance exam at 10+, 11+ or 13+, should, with reasonably hard work, be able to achieve it. In our experience students can be confident they will cope well with the demands of A levels at Trinity if they achieve six or more 7+ grades.

Secondly, there are subject specific criteria which are published in the Sixth Form Guide. For example, if a student wishes to study Maths at A level then they must gain at least a grade 7 at GCSE. The rationale for this is simply that if you have achieved a 6 in Maths at GCSE, then the leap needed to succeed at A level at Trinity is just too great.

Thirdly, students need to have demonstrated a good work ethic to cope with the intensity of work in the Sixth Form at Trinity. There must be evidence, particularly from their effort grades in the Middle School, that they are motivated and committed. Students must also have a behavioural record that shows they will be a positive contributor to the community.

If the School have concerns about any of these requirements, we will communicate early with parents. In respect of the third requirement, final decisions are made by the Headmaster in the Spring Term of the 5th Year.

4 Applications Process

Information on the admissions process, including relevant dates, is updated each year and can be found in the admissions section of the School's website, the Admissions Handbook, or by contacting the Admissions Office.

Applications should be submitted during the registration period, normally between 30 June and mid-October (for 16+) or late October (for 10+, 11+, 13+) in the year prior to entry. Late applications are permitted under special circumstances and incur an additional administration fee.

All applicants can apply online via a link on the School's website. Applicants will be required to scan documents and upload them as part of the online admissions process. All applications are normally acknowledged by email and it is the responsibility of the applicant to confirm safe receipt of their application if such acknowledgement is not forthcoming.

The dates of the entrance examinations are given on the **Key Dates** page in the admissions section of the website but will usually be in November for 16+ entry, December for 10+ and 13+ entry, and in December or January for 11+.

5 Entrance Procedures: Examinations

The aim of the examinations is to assess the applicants using age-appropriate material to suggest the potential of an applicant to cope with the academic standards of the school. All examination papers are confidential to the school. The basic details of the assessment and entry tests are as follows:

10+, 11+, 13+ Examinations:

Written testing will cover the following:

- English Creative Writing – (30 minutes)
- Maths Problem Solving – (30 minutes)

Computer-based testing will consist of the following assessments:

- General Paper (60 minutes), consisting of:
 - Mathematics (20 minutes)
 - English (20 minutes)
 - Verbal Reasoning (10 minutes)
 - Non-Verbal Reasoning (10 minutes)
- Creative Comprehension and Problem Solving (35 minutes), consisting of:
 - Creative comprehension (20 minutes)
 - Puzzles and Problem-Solving (15 minutes)

The computer-based sections will be mainly multiple choice and WILL NOT require typing or keyboard skills.

These papers bear in mind the Key Stage 2 (10+ and 11+) and Key Stage 3 (13+) National Curriculum, and sample questions for English and Mathematics may be accessed on the school's website.

13+ Pre-testing

The school offers 13+ pre-testing for boys currently in Year 6 who wish to join the School in Year 9 (when the applicant is 13+ years of age). The procedure for this is to complete the 11+ application form by the required deadline. All applicants should also complete the 13+ Pre-testing Declaration Form and submit this with the 11+ application.

We do not require 13+ pre-test applicants to sit for the ISEB Pre-test. For 13+ pre-testing applicants who have sat this assessment, the school will review the ISEB results for the standard Common Pre-tests which may be taken at the applicant's current school. We will use the ISEB data, alongside our regular 11+ assessment procedures to assess the suitability of a candidate.

16+ Examinations:

All students applying to Trinity School will need to complete three assessments as part of their Entrance Exam. The assessments consist of a combination of computer-based and written components and are designed to assess academic ability regardless of the subjects you wish to study at A Level.

Computer-Based Testing

Lateral Thinking (50 minutes)

Lateral Thinking Part 1 (Comprehension & Verbal Reasoning) – 25 mins

Lateral Thinking Part 2 (Quantitative + Non-Verbal Reasoning) – 25 mins

This multiple-choice paper will tests verbal, non-verbal and numerical reasoning skills. This is an adaptive cognitive online test and assesses their underlying academic ability.

Written Exams

Written Communication Paper which tests their ability to analyse sources, as well as construct a piece of analytical writing. No prior subject knowledge is required.

Mathematical Reasoning Paper which assesses their ability to manipulate numbers. There will be a range of mathematical problems to solve as well as some science-based questioning.

The offer of a place is made based on your performance in these written and computer assessments, along with other sources of information including interviews, your personal statement, school reports and references.

Those who are successful will be invited to interview, details on this follow below.

At 16+, applicants who receive offers will also be required to achieve six A/A* or 7/8/9 grades at GCSE.

6 Entrance Procedures: Interviews

10+, 11+, 13+ Interviews:

The school's policy is that students who are successful in the entrance examinations are invited to Trinity for entrance interviews, which are the final stage in the selection process. Interviews will take place shortly after the entrance examinations.

All applicants are interviewed for 15-30 minutes. The interview will concentrate on their strengths at school and their interests. It will also consist of some questions designed to see how students can work through a problem they have not encountered before.

The extracurricular interests of applicants may have some bearing on selection. This evidence is derived from application forms, references from the student's current school and the admissions interviews.

13+ Pre-testing applicants:

Following a successful exam performance, students will be invited for entrance interviews which will take place shortly after the entrance examinations. An offer would then be made for entry in September 2024 on the condition that the applicant continues to make good academic progress and has a good school report. We will ask for school reports from the end of Year 7 as supporting evidence. In a small number of cases, and following an exceptional entrance assessment process, we may offer some applicants an unconditional place to join us in Year 9.

16+ Interviews:

Candidates who have performed well enough in the examinations will be invited back for interview for the school to build a broader picture of a candidates approach to school life and their wider interests. Most students will have two 'general' interviews, but those interested in studying Art, Drama, DT, Music and Photography will have further subject interviews in each subject. Art, DT and Photography interviews will require you to bring a portfolio.

Art, Drama, DT and Photography also hold separate interviews for those who have applied for scholarships: candidates will be sent further details about the specific requirements of these interviews closer to the time.

7 References

An up-to-date reference or school report is requested from the current school of all applicants prior to the entrance examinations. Applicants applying for entry at 16+ will be required to submit their most recent full school report. All parents are also asked to submit, along with the application form, a copy of an applicant's most recent written school report. We will seek a reference from the Head of the applicant's current school, who will be asked, typically, to comment on academic ability, attitude and behaviour, co-curricular involvement, interests and talents. Where relevant, the reference request may also ask for the results of tests taken at the school and/or predicted grades at GCSE.

8 Fees and Fee Remission

Most* applicants will be charged a non-returnable application fee prior to sitting the entrance examinations. Late applications are permitted under special circumstances and incur an additional administration fee. A deposit is payable on acceptance of a place. This will be retained in full until the student leaves, when it will be refunded less any balance owing to the school. Parents who fail to take up their child's place will lose their deposit. Current figures for application fees and deposits can be found on the school website.

* exceptions to this include – but are not necessarily limited to - those who qualify for free school meals, or Pupil Premium.

There are some costs which are not covered by the fees. These include lunches, uniform, external examination entry fees, individual music tuition, and part-cost of a small number of excursions away from school. Fees may be paid yearly, termly, or by monthly direct debit in advance.

9 Scholarships

Academic scholarships ~~are~~ may be awarded to applicants who excel in the entrance or GCSE examinations, and/or the subsequent admissions interviews. There is no additional application form as all applicants are automatically considered for an academic scholarship.

Scholarships are also offered in Art, Drama, Design Technology Music and Sport. All applicants will be required to submit supporting references and evidence as part of their application. A practical assessment is held during which the applicant's performance is considered to determine whether a scholarship will be awarded.

For applicants applying for 13+ pre-testing, scholarships will generally not be awarded at the point of the offer. Applicants who are offered a place for future entry in Year 9, should apply for a scholarship in the year preceding their year of entry. In a small number of places an academic award will be made but in all other cases an assessment will take place in the year prior to entry.

The awards are made without regard to parental income and are worth a percentage of the school fees, up to a maximum possible 50%. The scholarship will remain throughout a student's school career provided he or she maintains the expected standards. In distributing scholarship funds, the school aims to recognise the abilities and potential of the most talented applicants across all entry levels. The number and value of awards for each entry age group therefore varies from year to year. Even if a Whitgift Foundation Bursary has been awarded, a scholarship may also be given.

10 Bursaries

Usually parents whose family income is less than approximately £80,000 a year (exact figures are available direct from the John Whitgift Foundation) may apply for a bursary (an income-related fee reduction) but all assets are considered in the assessment. There is a generous but limited annual budget for bursaries and they are awarded on the basis of performance in the entrance examinations and interviews for those who qualify in terms of their income. Successful bursary applicants may also be entitled to some remission of the deposit fee.

Bursary assessment forms should be completed before the entrance examination is taken. These forms can be found on the John Whitgift Foundation website. The Clerk to the John Whitgift Foundation calculates the bursary award. The John Whitgift Foundation publishes an additional policy for its employees.

11 Offers of Places

The admission decision will be taken by the Headmaster based on the examinations, interview, school report and personal statement. The offer of a place will be communicated to each applicant's parent/guardian in writing. Offers at 11+ are likely to be posted to parents in early February, in accordance with an 11+ agreement between Trinity Group schools. Offers at 10+ and 13+ will be made as soon as possible after interviews are complete. Parents will be asked to reply within two to three weeks and will be given a precise date by which to reply. Offers of 16+ places

for September entry will be posted to parents in the preceding December. Admission is subject to the criteria listed in the 'Admissions Criteria' in this document, below.

12 Siblings and Relatives

The school welcomes applications from siblings of current and previous students as well as the children and other relatives of past students. However, applicants will be expected to comply with all aspects of the admissions process including deadlines and meeting the academic criteria which apply to all other applicants.

13 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

The school endeavours to make reasonable adjustments to the admissions procedures to enable disabled and other special educational needs applicants to compete for a place at the school without disadvantage. Parents are expected to provide the school with any documentation in this regard.

Parents are asked to contact the Admissions Office to discuss adjustments which might reasonably be made to meet their child's specific needs. If necessary, a meeting will be arranged at the school to discuss provision for the applicant's needs throughout the admissions process and, presuming a successful outcome to the application, during the student's subsequent time at the school. While the School attempts to meet the costs of all reasonable adjustments, it reserves the right to charge for additional services.

Where an applicant has an existing statement of special educational needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), a conversation will always take place prior to the entrance examination between the school and the applicant's parents, and – if appropriate – with the relevant education authority. All such cases are dealt with on an individual basis, and the purpose of such conversations is to establish whether the school best meets the needs of that student.

Applicants with learning needs may be allowed additional time in the entrance examinations, at the discretion of the school's admissions staff. This will mirror the provision at the student's current school. Documentary evidence, such as a current Educational Psychologist's report and an Individual Education Plan from the applicant's current school, should be submitted to the school before the closing date for applications. Any changes to a child's current SEND status must be shared with the school before the student joins.

14 EAL (English as an Additional Language)

If English is not an applicant's primary language, parents should liaise with the Admissions Office and must inform the school of this. To fully access the curriculum at Trinity, a confident knowledge of English is necessary.

15 Admission Criteria

The school will only offer a place if there is a place available. To be considered for admission to the school, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be able to attend School on a regular basis.
- Be of sufficient maturity and appropriate age to participate in all aspects of School life
- For entrance at 10+, 11+ or 13+: be supported by a strong recommendation from the Head of their current school in terms of academic achievement, motivation, and co-curricular involvement.

- For entrance at 16+: be appropriately supported by their most recent full written report and achieve the required minimum of 6 grade 7s or above at GCSE.
- Perform strongly in the entrance examinations and interviews relative to other applicants.
- If English is not their first language, applicants must demonstrate a satisfactory level of spoken and written English in order that they can engage and participate fully in all aspects of School life.
- Where English is not the first language of parents, there are suitable arrangements in place to ensure that the school can communicate effectively with them.
- Any learning difficulties or special needs must have been identified to the school by the parents and the school must be able to meet these needs.
- All fees due at the applicant's present school have been paid.
- Where an applicant's family is not resident in the UK, an appropriate guardian has been arranged
- The school's terms and conditions have been signed by the applicant's parent/guardian.

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