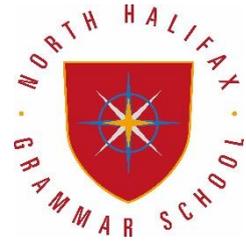




## The Halifax Grammar Schools Admissions Policy for Entry 2023 Consultation



### Frequently Asked Questions

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The Halifax Grammar Schools conducted a public consultation on our policy for entry to Year 7 in September 2023. The consultation closed on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022. 85 communications were received. The nature of the communications covered a range of issues which were considered by the Admissions Authorities and these are addressed below:

**1. *Not enough time ahead of September 2022 to understand or tutor children for the Non Verbal Reasoning test. Inappropriate time frame to make changes***

The time frame for publishing the policy for admissions for entry in September 2023 is statutorily determined. The Admissions Authorities must publish their policies by 28th February 2022. The timeframe for consultation is also statutorily determined, in this case October 2021 to January 2022. The Admissions Authorities have consulted on proposed changes, and will publish the policy for entry in September 2023, in line with the statutory timeframes.

The Admissions Authorities are treating all prospective applicants in the same way under their policies, as required, i.e. all children have the same time to prepare for the tests following publication of the policy. The Halifax Grammar Schools do not advocate tutoring and cannot consider private tutoring arrangements.

**2. *Changes should have been made in September***

The timeframe for consultation on the policies for entry in September 2023 is statutorily determined and was, in this case, October 2021 to January 2022

**3. *Children's mental health will be affected by the introduction of the Non Verbal Reasoning test***

All children have ample time to prepare for the tests in line with the statutory timeframe for publication of the policies for entry in 2023. It is the responsibility of parents to determine whether sitting the tests is appropriate for their child and to determine the extent of any preparation.

**4. *Children outside Calderdale may have prepared for a Non Verbal Reasoning test***

There is ample time to prepare for the Non Verbal Reasoning test in line with the statutory timeframe for publication of the policy for entry in September 2023. The Halifax Grammar Schools Admissions Authorities set their policies for their own entrance tests and cannot take account of the Admissions Policies of other schools.

**5. *The exact number of questions and length of each test should be included***

Information about numbers of questions and lengths of tests are not customarily included in admissions policies. Information around the rough length of time of each test will be provided to parents of registered children shortly before the tests take place.

**6. *The Covid-19 pandemic has disadvantaged children***

The Admissions Authorities are treating all prospective applicants in the same way, as required, i.e. all children have been affected by the pandemic.

**7. *Some parents may not be aware of the consultation or proposed changes***

The consultation was public and the schools have made every effort to follow consultation guidelines and reach all relevant stakeholders. The Admissions Policies are published in the Admissions sections on the schools' websites. Parents enquiring about admissions or registering their child(ren) for the tests will be able to see the policies. It is the responsibility of parents wishing their child(ren) to sit the tests to read the policies.

**8. *Students are being set up to fail***

Neither the number of places offered by the Halifax Grammar Schools, nor the qualifying standard, has changed. All children sitting the admission tests are being treated equally.

**9. *The process is unfair***

In consulting on proposed changes and publishing the policy for entry in September 2023, the Halifax Grammar Schools have followed the statutorily determined timeframes. The nature of the policy and the 2023 tests have been made available to all prospective applicants at the same time. The policies have been determined in line with the School Admissions Code and are fully compliant with the code.

**10. *Changes mean the system is no longer based on merit***

This is not true. Places are offered on the basis of merit determined by performance in objectively set tests. All children are treated in exactly the same way by the Admissions Authorities under their Admissions Policies.

**11. *Minor adjustments should be made to wording in line with government guidance in respect of:***

- *Parents moving or returning from abroad*
- *Children outside their normal age group*
- *Applications received after the closing date*

These adjustments have been made.