Consultation on the expansion of the School Premises and the revision of the School’s Admissions Oversubscription Criteria at Altrincham Grammar School for Boys

Monday 4th June 2018 to Friday 13th July 2018

Foreword

The Governors of Altrincham Grammar School for Boys would like to hear your views on:

1. A proposal to expand the School on its current site through the addition of extra classrooms and a larger Library to allow the School to add an extra form group to its intake in each year. The School now has a design in place and has obtained the necessary planning permissions. AGSB previously consulted on this between November 2015 and January 2016 and received overwhelming support.

2. A further proposal to revise the School’s Admissions Oversubscription Criteria. The School seeks to further increase the diversity of our pupil body as part of the proposed expansion. This will enable more places to be offered to pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium.

The Selective Schools Expansion Fund (SSEF) is a new capital fund programme from the Department of Education to encourage grammar schools to expand the number of pupils who are able to attend selective schools, in particular the number of pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds. Altrincham Grammar School for Boys encourages this new initiative and would wish to implement a Fair Access and Partnership Plan which would increase both the number of applicants and successful admissions to the school of pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium.

The Governors would like to consult with parents, staff, the local community and other stakeholders about the School’s proposals.

About Altrincham Grammar School for Boys

Altrincham Grammar School for Boys is an Ofsted “Outstanding School” with consistently outstanding results, which places it amongst the top 50 schools in the country. In 2017 our GCSE and A Level results continued to be some of the highest within the country. We are a
forward thinking school, committed to providing a quality education that prepares our students for university study, apprenticeships and successful employment.

**Why expand on our current site?**

We are a very popular over-subscribed school, with over 1,100 applications for 173 places each year, indicating that demand for places far outstrips our current intake. We are conscious that demand from local children will continue to increase due to the expansion of many primary schools in the Altrincham area. We would therefore wish to increase the Pupil Admission Number from 173 to 210 each year.

The proposal is to build a new teaching block located in the North playground consisting of 8 additional classrooms, a Library, independent learning spaces and toilets. This will create a quadrangle. This will significantly improve the facilities that we are able to offer current and future pupils. This will also resolve issues of pupil movement around the school by providing new routes and will improve site security from the Heath Road entrance. An additional play area will be created to the north of the site for younger pupils following the demolition of accommodation that is no longer fit for purpose.

We have the support of the Local Authority and our local MP for the proposed change to the School Premises and have the requisite planning permissions in place.

**Why revise the School’s Admissions Oversubscription Criteria?**

For pupils joining the School from September 2018 onwards, the School has already expanded the **priority admission area** to include M33 and M23 postcodes within Trafford. This will help to meet the increasing demand for school places from primary school children in the local area. A detailed map of the priority admission area within Trafford is available to view at the School. Please contact the Admissions Office to view the map.

For pupils joining the School from September 2018 onwards, the School has already introduced a new category in the Oversubscription Criteria with a target of up to 10 Applicants in receipt of Pupil Premium, attending a Trafford State Funded School and whose permanent home address lies within Trafford but outside the School’s priority admission area. Whilst there have been pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium within the school community since the inception of Pupil Premium in 2011, we wished to create more opportunities for increased pupil diversity in the future.

The current School’s Admissions Oversubscription Criteria is summarised at the end of this document. It can also be found on the school website at: [https://www.agsb.co.uk/admissions/admission-policies/](https://www.agsb.co.uk/admissions/admission-policies/)

The School wishes to build on the latter initiative, to encourage more pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds to join the school, in line with the Department of Education’s Selective Schools Expansion programme.

The School wishes to consult on the following proposed changes to the School’s Admissions Oversubscription Criteria, for Applicants looking to join the School from September 2020 onwards, and introduce a number of initiatives to facilitate that change:
1. **Priority Category 1**

Paragraph 7.1 in the School’s Admission Oversubscription Criteria will remain as at present. This is for Looked After Children or Previously Looked After Children. The Qualifying Score for these Applicants is 334 and above.

2. **Priority Category 2**

The School wishes to introduce a new paragraph 7.2 in the School’s Admissions Oversubscription Criteria. This will be referred to as Priority Category 2 and is for Applicants in receipt of Pupil Premium, living within the priority admission area and attending a Trafford State Funded School. It is proposed that the Qualifying Score for these Applicants will be 321 and above. Currently all Applicants who obtain a mark between 321 and 333 are individually reviewed by an expert panel and some are awarded places. The change to the Policy would mean that all Applicants who are in receipt of Pupil Premium, living within the priority admission area and attending a Trafford State Funded School would obtain a place at the School with a score of 321 and above.

3. **Priority Category 3**

The previous paragraph 7.2 would become paragraph 7.3 and would be referred to as Priority Category 3. This would mean that all other Applicants residing within the priority admission area and achieving the Qualifying Score of 334 and above will be offered a place at the School (as at present). Applicants who score between 321 and 333 will be reviewed on an individual basis by an expert panel, as at present.

4. **Priority Category 4**

The new Priority 4 Category will prioritise up to 10 Applicants in receipt of Pupil Premium, residing outside of the priority admission area (but within Trafford) and attending a Trafford State Funded School. Applicants within Priority Category 4 who achieve a Qualifying Score of 321 and above will be offered a place at the School, on the basis of ranking of the newly defined Qualifying Score. This Priority Category 4 is in line with paragraph 7.3 in the existing School’s Admission Oversubscription Criteria, save for the variation in Qualifying Score for these Applicants.

5. **Priority Category 5**

The existing paragraph 7.4 will be referred to as Priority Category 5 and will remain as defined at present. This is for up to 10 Applicants attending a State Funded School and whose permanent address lies within Trafford but outside the priority admission area. The Qualifying Score for these Applicants will be 334 and above and all other provisions as already set out continue to apply.

6. The remainder of the School’s Admissions Oversubscription Policy will remain as at present, save for a variation in category numbering to follow sequentially from those set out above.
7. The intended outcome of the proposed changes to the School’s Admission Oversubscription Criteria is to significantly increase both the number of Applicants and successful admissions to the School of pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium.

8. Alongside, and of equal importance to the proposed policy changes, the School plans to develop further its outreach work to raise awareness of those opportunities within the local community.

9. The School plans to appoint a member of staff with specific responsibility to work with local primary schools and parents, to increase both the number of applications and successful admissions of children from lower income backgrounds. This will be in consultation with the Local Authority and in partnership with other local grammar schools, to avoid duplication.

10. The School plans to take its Information Evenings about preparing Applicants for the Entrance Exams and life at secondary school out into the community; to build on our current Science and Maths activities to offer sessions for pupils and their parents in English and arts/humanities subjects; to encourage our staff and sixth form pupils to work with local schools with Science, Music and Sports coaching. AGSB offers free musical instrument lessons to all current Year 7 and Year 8 pupils at the School and would welcome the opportunity to show how much those pupils have learned over those 2 years.

11. We welcome suggestions from parents, staff, the local community and other stakeholders for outreach activities that would encourage applications to the school from a diverse range of social backgrounds.

How will the decision to expand the School in line with these proposals be reached?

If, at the conclusion of the consultation period, it is agreed by the School’s Governors to proceed with the application to expand, the relevant documentation will be sent to the Selective Schools Expansion Fund. This will include a summary of the public consultation and the comments received both in writing and at the informal drop-in session on Thursday 21 June 2018 between 5pm and 7pm.

We expect to hear the outcome of our funding application by the end of November 2018.

How can you respond to this consultation?

The consultation will be between Monday 4 June 2018 and Friday 13 July 2018.

You can respond in any of three ways:

1. Complete the response at the back of this document and post or email it to the address shown.
2. Write a letter and send this to the address below.
3. Email your response to: consultation@agsb.co.uk
4. Attend the informal meeting on Thursday 21st June 2018 between 5pm and 7pm.
The deadline for responding is **5pm on Friday 13 July 2018**.

Please return your completed form or your letter to:

The Head Master  
Altrincham Grammar School for Boys  
Marlborough Road  
Bowdon  
Altrincham  
WA14 2RS

Please note – whilst we will note all comments and value their content, we will not be able to respond individually to completed forms, letters or emails.
Taken from the 2019 Admissions Policy:
This is available on the AGSB website using the link below:
https://www.agsb.co.uk/media/2198/2019-admissions-policy-for-publication.pdf

7. Oversubscription Criteria
Where the number of boys qualified for admission exceeds the number of places available the following criteria will be applied in the order set out below to decide which boys to admit:

7.1 Looked After Children and previously Looked After children.
A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority, in the exercise of their social services functions (as defined in Section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989). Previously Looked After Children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order) as defined in Section 14A of the Children Act 1989.

7.2 Applicants residing within the priority admission area. The priority admission area is defined:
(a) Postal addresses of WA13/WA14/WA15/M33 and M23 postcodes which lie within the Trafford Local Authority.

7.3 Up to 10 places to applicants in receipt of Pupil Premium, attending a Trafford State Funded School and whose permanent home address (the address to which the PP is registered) lies within the Trafford Local Authority but outside the School’s priority admission area. Places will be offered on the basis of ranking as determined by their aggregated GL Assessment selection scores.

7.4 Up to 10 places to pupils attending a Trafford State Funded School and whose permanent home address lies within the Trafford Local Authority area but outside the School’s priority admission area. Places will be offered on the basis of ranking as determined by their aggregated GL Assessment selection scores.

7.5 Eligible boys from outside the School’s priority admission area ranked in order as determined by their aggregated GL Assessment selection scores.

7.6 Where the number of applicants qualifying for admission exceeds the number of places available in any category priority shall be given to those applicants residing closer to the School.

7.7 Distance will be calculated as a direct straight line from the child's permanent place of residence to the School, using property co-ordinates provided through a combination of the Trafford Local Land and Property Gazetteer (BS7666) and Royal Mail Postal Address Information. In the case of a child living in a block of flats, co-ordinates will be measured in the same manner.

7.8 Random allocation will be used as a tie-break to decide who has the highest priority for admission where the qualifying score and the distance between two applicants’ homes and the School is the same.

7.9 Parents of applicants who do not gain a place at the School will be offered the right to appeal by their Home Authority, following National Offer Day (1 March, 2019).
Consultation on a proposal to expand AGSB on its current site

I am a Parent / Carer / Member of Staff / Governor / other interested party (please delete as appropriate)

Your Name: (optional)

Address: (optional)

Comments: (The comments will be discussed by Governors in redacted form at a future meeting and summarised in any SSEF application, as appropriate)
Please post your form to: The Head Master, Altrincham Grammar School for Boys, Marlborough Road, Bowdon, Altrincham WA14 2RS

or email it to: consultation@agsb.co.uk

Consultation: Thursday 21st June 2018 between 5pm and 7pm
Deadline: Friday 13th July 2018 at 5.00pm