

Maiden Erlegh School in Reading

Admissions arrangements for the academic year 2016/17

Maiden Erlegh School in Reading is an 11–16 co-educational all-ability secondary school and this document details the policy to be followed for admissions to Maiden Erlegh School in Reading. It is committed to straightforward, open, fair and transparent admissions arrangements. The school will act fully in accordance with the School Admissions Code (as revised December 2014), the School Admissions Appeals Code and admissions law as they apply to academies.

Published Admissions Number (PAN)

The Published Admission Number for entry into Year 7 at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading in September 2016 is 180.

The Academy will accordingly admit this number of pupils if there are sufficient applications. Where fewer applicants than the published admission number for the relevant year group are received, the Academy Trust will offer places to all those who have applied.

Application Process

Maiden Erlegh School in Reading will be part of the local authority's co-ordinated arrangements which requires all parents to complete a common application form (CAF) provided by their local authority. Full details of the application process are available in the Reading Borough Council Secondary Guide. This guide and information on the application process is available on the Reading Borough Council website <http://www.reading.gov.uk/residents/EducationandLearning/Schools/Admissions/>

In completing the common application form, Maiden Erlegh School in Reading must be listed as one of the preferences on the local authority form. Inaccurate or false information on the form could result in the place being withdrawn.

Applications received after the published deadline (31 October 2015) will be treated as a 'late' application and will be considered after the on-time applications have been allocated. If there is good reason i.e. the family has moved to the area after the closing date or the illness of a single parent prevented them submitting an on-time application the application may be treated as on-time, provided it is received by 15 January 2016. In such instances evidence may be required.

We will operate in keeping with the local Fair Access Protocol.

Special Educational Need

Children with a statement of Special Educational Need or Education Health and Care (EHC) plan where Maiden Erlegh School in Reading is named on the statement will be allocated a place before all other applicants.

Over subscription criteria

If there are more applicants than places available and after the admission of children with a statement of Special Educational Needs or Education Health & Care (EHC) plan that names Maiden Erlegh School in Reading, applications will be prioritised in accordance with the following over-subscription criteria;

1. Looked after children or children who were looked after¹;
2. Children who are eligible for the Pupil Premium² at the time of the closing date for applications (31 October 2015)
3. Children of 'Maiden Erlegh School in Reading' staff who have been in post for at least two years at the time of the application or have been recruited to fill a vacant post in a demonstrable skill shortage area. The skill shortage area will be determined by the Maiden Erlegh Academy Trust by 1 July of the year of application and made available on the school website.
4. Children who have a sibling at the school at the time of application; who is expected to be attending the school when the child will enter the school³ .
5. Children who attend the following Primary schools - Alfred Sutton, Redlands, New Town, St Johns, Katesgrove, Earley St Peters.
6. Any other children.

In order to be considered within oversubscription 2 a Supplementary Information Sheet must be completed confirming your child's eligibility for pupil premium. The school will not consider applications under this over subscription criteria unless this form is completed.

Where the application of oversubscription criteria would result in splitting children of multiple births (e.g. twins) or children born in the same academic year from the same family, then places will be offered to both even if this will result in the school going above its admission number.

¹ A previously 'Looked After' child is a child who was looked after, but has been adopted or became subject to a child arrangement order or special guardianship order immediately following having been 'Looked After'. Confirmation by the local authority that last looked after the child that the child was looked after immediately prior to the issuing of one of the following orders:

*These are children adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (Section 12) and children adopted under the Adoption and Children's Act 2002 (Section 46).
The Children and Families Act 2014 amended the Children Act 1989 and replaces residence orders with child arrangement orders.*

² Those eligible for Pupil Premium are children who:

- Are registered as eligible for free school meals; or
- Have been registered as eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years; or
- Have been looked-after continuously by a local authority for at least a day or were previously looked after but were subsequently adopted or became subject of a residence or special guardianship order.

³ A sibling is a brother or sister (that is another child of the same parents, whether living at the same address or not), or a half brother or sister, step brother or step sister, or adopted or foster children living at the same address. It includes children who at the time of application have a sibling who the offer of a place at the school has been accepted, even if the sibling is not yet attending.

Tie- breaker

Where there are more applications in one criterion than places available, the following tiebreaker will be applied to decide which of the applicants can be offered places, and the waiting list order.

Priority will be given within any of the above oversubscription criteria to the applicant whose permanent home address is nearest to the midpoint of the junction of Hamilton Road and Bulmershe Road (the data point to be used is Easting 473698 Northing 172442) in terms of radial (straight line) distance. Distances will be measured consistently as the straight-line distance from the home to the data point using the Ordnance Survey data points of the home and the school using computerised software of Reading Borough Council. Every address has a unique data point which is determined by the Easting and Northing. This point can be anywhere on the property. The distance created using this software is calculated using Pythagoras' Theorem and may not be exactly the same as that created with a GIS product as the GIS product may build in a formula to allow for the curvature of the earth. The way in which it is done is to calculate the distance in metres between the Eastings and Northings for each end point then multiply by 0.000621317 to convert to miles.

To see where the data point of your home has been identified you can go to Reading Borough Council website www.reading.gov.uk and go to My Reading on the right of the page. Enter the postcode and select the address and an arrow will point to the data point of the address.

In the event that two or more children live at the same distance from the school and there are fewer places available, random allocation will be used to decide which child will be allocated the remaining place(s). This will be by supervised drawing of lots, carried out by at least 2 officers at the academy.

Residency Requirements

Applications are processed on the basis of the child's single permanent home address, living with parent(s), or a carer/legal guardian.

Evidence is required of a single address. Where this is changing, evidence regarding the new address, and disposal of the previous address through a contract for sale or change of tenancy will be required. Parents will be asked to declare that the address used will be their place of residence beyond the date of the pupil starting school. The school will reserve its right to carry out further investigation and require additional evidence, and to reject applications or withdraw offers of places if it believes it has grounds to do so. In such cases parents have recourse to putting their application through the independent appeals process.

If a child spends part of the week with parents at different addresses, the home address will be where they usually spend the majority of the school week (Monday to Friday, including nights) with a parent. Where a family claims to be resident at more than one address, justification and evidence of the family's circumstances (e.g. legal separation) will be required. The home address will also be considered on the basis of the child benefit payment arrangements, where this is payable. If a child does not live at their parent(s) address we need to know the reasons for this. The reasons would need to be supported by official documentation.

Temporary addresses cannot be used to obtain school places, e.g. temporary addresses whilst retaining a previous permanent home will not be accepted. Where a parent has two or more properties, evidence will be required showing the rental, or disposal, of the

previous property. Reference will be made to Council Tax and school records. If an applicant is moving house and wishes to use the new address for the allocation of places, evidence will be required that the parent and child has moved and are living in the new home by 15 January 2016. If the move takes place later or information is provided later, the school will only be able to treat the new address for waiting list purposes and consider this information after the initial allocation of places has taken place.

Out-of-age-group admissions

Out-of-age-group admissions will only be agreed where there is consensus that it is in the best interests of the child; the circumstances of each case will be considered individually. Such a consensus would be reached between the parents, schools concerned (the current school and Maiden Erlegh School in Reading) and any relevant professionals asked for their opinion on the case by Maiden Erlegh School in Reading.

Accepting or declining the offer of a place

Parents are required to accept or decline the allocated place using the form sent with the allocation letter. The form must be returned to the home local authority in accordance with their co-ordinated scheme. If a form is not received, there will be one further written warning and failure to respond may result in the place being withdrawn. Parents are requested to advise the local authority at any stage, if they are not accepting the place for any reason.

Waiting Lists

After 1 March 2016 a 'waiting list' will be administered if the school has more applicants than places available. A child's position on the waiting list is determined by applying the over-subscription criteria as described above. Positions on the waiting list may go up or down due to pupil withdrawals or new or revised applications and no account is taken of the length of time spent on the waiting list. Waiting lists will be maintained until such time as the policy is changed, to fill places that may become available during the school year. Children who are the subject of a direction by the local authority to admit or who are allocated to Maiden Erlegh School in Reading in accordance with an in-year fair access protocol will take precedence over those on the waiting list.

In Year admissions to Year 7

Applications for entry to Year 7 after the end of the routine admissions round (ending on 31 August 2016) are processed as in-year applications and applications will be co-ordinated by Reading Borough Council according to published admission arrangements and timescales. Parents wishing to apply for a place at the school should obtain from their Local Authority a copy of their common application form.

If there are pupils on a waiting list, then the pupil will be placed on that waiting list in a position determined by application of the criteria used in determining initial admissions to Year 7. Pupils will be admitted from the waiting list in order as space becomes available.

If there is no pupil on the waiting list for the year into which the applicant is seeking admission, then the Academy Trust will determine whether a place can be offered to the applicant. If at the time of this determination the school has applications from more than one pupil for admission to the same year group, all the applications will be ordered according to the criteria used in determining initial admissions to Year 7 and will be considered in that order.

In reaching a decision on an application for admission to a full year group, the Academy Trust will normally refuse a place unless they are statutorily obliged to admit the applicant or the application is covered by Reading Borough Council's Fair Access Protocols.

Parents are required to accept or decline the allocated place using the form sent with the allocation letter in the same way as detailed in the normal round of admissions.

Appeals

Parents who are dissatisfied with the school's decision not to admit their child(ren) may appeal to an independent appeals panel against that decision. The determination of the panel will be made in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code and will be binding on all parties. Maiden Erlegh School in Reading will use the independent appeals service provided by the local authority. Independent Appeals Panels are appointed in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code. Appeals should be made, in writing, to Reading Borough Council within 20 school days from the date of notification that the application was unsuccessful.

End

Maiden Erlegh School in Reading