River Academy
Admission arrangements for year 2027/28

Introductory Statement

River Academy is an 11–18 co-educational all-ability secondary school and this document details the policy to be followed for admissions to River Academy in Year 7-11. We are committed to straightforward, open, fair and transparent admissions arrangements. The school will act fully in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021, the School Admissions Appeals Code and admissions law as they apply to academies.

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Admission number(s)

The school has an admission number of 180 for entry in Year 7 with an additional 7 places in River Academy's Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP) for Year 7 children with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) for moderate learning difficulties (MLD). Places in the ARP will be allocated outside of these arrangements in consultation with Brighter Futures for Children.

The school 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

Brighter Futures for Children (Reading School Admissions) will be coordinating admissions on behalf of River Academy outside the normal local authority process for co-ordinating school offers. You will need to complete the River Academy application form (in addition to your home local authority common application form) and return it to Brighter Futures for Children.

Applications for this school admissions at Reading Borough Council at the following address: School Admissions, Brighter Futures for Children, Reading Borough Council using the email address: admissions@brighterfuturesforchildren.org. Brighter Futures will be coordinating the admissions on behalf of the Trust.

The closing date for applications is **31 October 2026**. Offers will be made on **1 March 2027**.

Over subscription criteria

When the school is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan naming River Academy, priority for admission will be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below, in priority order:

1. Looked after children and children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order as well as children who appeal (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted[1].

2. Priority will next be given to children eligible for the pupil premium. Evidence of eligibility will need to be submitted with the application. See notes below on eligibility.

3. Priority will next be given to the children of staff who have been recruited to fill a skill-shortage area. (This includes all staff groups.)

4. Priority will be next be given to the siblings of pupils attending the school at the time the application is received (where an older sibling is in Year 11 siblings will not prioritised under this criterion).

5. Other children.

[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.

A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

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If in categories 2-5 above a tie-break is necessary to determine which child is admitted, the child living closest to the school will be given priority for admission. Distance is measured from the child's home to the front gates of the school in a straight line.

Random allocation undertaken by the local authority will be used as a tie-break in categories 2-5 above to decide who has highest priority for admission if the distance between a child's home and the academy is equidistant in any two or more cases.

Random allocation will not be applied to multiple birth siblings (twins, triplets etc) from the same family tied for the final place. We will admit them all and exceed our PAN.

Late Applications

All applications received by the school or LA after the deadline will be considered to be late applications. Late applications will be considered after those received on time. If, following consideration of all applicants the school is oversubscribed parents may request that their child is placed on the school's waiting list.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal aged group. To do so parents should include a request with their application, specifying why admission out of normal year group is being requested.

When such a request is made, the academy trust will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child concerned, taking into account the views of the headteacher and any supporting evidence provided by the parents.

Waiting list

The school will operate a waiting list. Where the school receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate until the end of academic year. This will be maintained by Brighter Futures for Children on behalf of the Academy Trust and it will be open to any parent to ask for his or her child's name to be placed on the waiting list, following an unsuccessful application.

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Children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. The waiting list will be reordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever anyone is added to or leaves the waiting list.

Appeals

All applicants refused a place have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code.

Appellants should contact the Appeals Clerk at Brighter Futures for Children (who will be carrying out any appeals on behalf of the Academy Trust). Information about the appeals process is on our website at www.river-academy.co.uk/Admissions

Notes:

Home address:
The home address is where a child normally lives. Where a child lives with parents with shared parental responsibility, each for part of a week, the address where the child lives is determined using a joint declaration from the parents stating the pattern of residence. If a child's residence is split equally between both parents, then parents will be asked to determine which residential address should be used for the purpose of admission to school. If no joint declaration is received where the residence is split equally by the closing date for applications, the home address will be taken as the address where the child is registered with the doctor. If the residence is not split equally between both parents then the address used will be the address where the child spends the majority of the school week.

Sibling:
'Sibling' means a natural brother or sister, a half brother or sister, a legally adopted brother or sister or half-brother or sister, a stepbrother or sister or other child living in the same household as part of the same family who, in any of these cases, will be living at the same address at the date of their application for a place.

Pupil Premium Priority:

Those eligible for **Pupil Premium** admission priority are:

Pupil Premium eligible children are those who currently qualify for Targeted

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Free School Meals, have qualified at any point in the previous six years (Ever 6 FSM), 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. (Children eligible only under Expanded Free School Meals do not qualify for Pupil Premium.)

Parents will be required to provide evidence of eligibility with their application.

General contact information for all admissions

Copies of the school admissions arrangements are available on the school website: www.river-academy.co.uk

or from the school Operations and Administrative Manager, who should be contacted in the first instance with any queries about the school admission arrangements.

Email: river@maidenerleghtrust.org Telephone: 0118 216 0400

Operations and Administrative Manager
River Academy
7 Richfield Avenue
Reading
RG1 8EQ

Copies of Reading Borough Council documents, parent's guides and common application forms are available on its website:

http://www.reading.gov.uk/admissionsarrangements

http://www.reading.gov.uk/schooladmissions

They can also be obtained from the School Admissions Team, whose contact details are given below. Any queries about Reading's admission arrangements should be addressed to the team.

Email admissions.team@reading.gov.uk Telephone 0118 937 3777

School Admissions Team
Reading Borough Council
Civic Offices
Bridge Street
Reading
RG1 2LU

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