Consultation on proposed Admission Arrangements for River Academy for entry from September 2028

Introduction

River Academy is an academy school and is its own admission authority, forming part of Maiden Erlegh Trust. When an admission authority wishes to make changes to their admission arrangements, they must consult to ensure all views are heard. Maiden Erlegh Trust is consulting on the following change to their admission arrangements.

River Academy - Proposed change to introduce 'Children of Staff' as an oversubscription criterion.

Why are we proposing this change?

To ensure consistency across the Trust's admissions arrangements and to support the recruitment and retention of high-quality staff, it is proposed that River Academy introduces a 'Children of Staff' oversubscription criterion. This criterion is already used within the admissions arrangements of other Trust schools and supports the school's ability to attract and retain employees committed to the long-term success of the school and the wider Trust. This criterion would replace: 'Priority will next be given to the children of staff who have been recruited to fill a skill shortage area'.

The proposed new criterion is:

Priority will next be given to children of staff employed by Maiden Erlegh Trust whose main place of work is River Academy at the closing date for applications, where the member of staff is the child's legal parent or guardian, has a permanent contract to work at the school and:

- has been employed at River Academy for two or more consecutive years at the closing date for applications; or
- has been recruited to fill a post for which there is a demonstrable skills shortage

This applies to all staff groups. Any skills shortage area will be determined by Maiden Erlegh Trust by 1 July in the year of application and published on the school website

Copies of the proposed arrangements can be obtained from the River Academy school office or on their website:

www.river-academy.co.uk

How can you respond?

We would like to hear your views on these proposals. Please send any comments regarding the above proposed changes by emailing:

METadmin@maidenerleghtrust.org

The consultation will take place between **10 November 2026 and 22 December 2026**.

What happens next?

After the consultation closes the responses will be collated and presented to the Trust Board at Maiden Erlegh Trust who will decide whether or not to proceed with the proposed changes. The admission arrangements will then be determined, and the outcome will be published on the school website by 15 March 2027.