



21/02/2024

Consultation Report

Changes to Rivermead Primary School Admissions Policy 2025-26

Background

Rivermead Primary School is a very popular two-form entry school which has been at the heart of the Woodley community for 80 years. The school converted to join Bellevue Place Education Trust (BPET) on 1 January 2023. BPET is now the admissions authority for Rivermead Primary School.

In accordance with the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012, admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements if changes are being proposed to the admission policies, or if they have not been consulted on within the last 7 years.

As the new admissions authority, BPET have proposed two changes to the Rivermead Primary School Admissions Policy for the 2025-26 academic year and onwards. A public consultation ran from 29 Nov 2023 to 31 Jan 2024.

Who was consulted

The proposed changes and consultation papers were sent to:

- Parents/carers of children currently at the school
- School staff and School Local Advisory Board (LAB)
- Pre-school, nurseries and primary school providers within 1.5mile radius of Rivermead Primary School
- Wokingham Borough Local Authority.

What Changes were proposed

BPET proposed to change the Oversubscription Criteria in two ways:

- (1) **Remove the criteria** "Families who have exceptional medical or social needs as the grounds for their child's admission to a particular school." Because it is very rarely used and BPET feels that a child's local school often best meets their medical needs; pupils who apply should be in the catchment of the school and we have no specialist facilities.



(2) Add the criteria: “Children of staff at the school. Priority to children of staff will be given in either or both of the following circumstances:

- (i) Where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and is still employed at the date of admission, and/or
- (ii) The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.”

This criteria will support long-standing employees rewarding them with the possibility of having their children taught in their school, and will facilitate staff recruitment.

Responses

Responses in writing by post or email were invited until 31 January 2024. No responses, comments or feedback was received.

Conclusion

The two proposed changes to the Rivermead Admissions Policy Criteria bring the school into alignment with the other schools in the Bellevue Place Education Trust.

There is no statistical evidence to show that change 1 would damage the school community make-up and its engagement with the local community.

Change 2 aligns a benefit of gaining a place at Rivermead after two-years employment, alongside other legal benefits which come into force after that time frame. The time period also offers some security to Rivermead Primary School as an employer, maintaining core vital staff positions such as Teaching Assistants, Learning Support Assistants and Midday Supervisors.

Therefore, we have requested approval of the BPET Board of the updated Admissions Policy as our ‘Determined Admissions 2025-26’.

BPET Board approval – 5 March 2024

The proposed changes to the policy will be approved by the BPET Board on Tuesday 5th March 2024.