



OAK TREE SCHOOL

A Maiden Erlegh Trust School



Section 10 Statutory Consultation

Nurturing potential, encouraging independence

Welcome to Oak Tree School

Maiden Erlegh Trust is consulting on its proposal to open a new special free school for Brighter Futures for Children on behalf of Reading Borough Council and Wokingham Borough Council in September 2022.

Oak Tree School is a special school approved by the Department for Education into the 'pre-opening phase'. The impetus for this project has been a partnership between Brighter Futures for Children, on behalf of Reading Borough Council, and Wokingham Borough Council as part of their commitment to providing additional special school places for local children close to their own communities.

The school is planning to open in September 2022, subject to any statutory approvals required. It will form part of Maiden Erlegh Trust, which is a Berkshire based academy trust, including three secondary, one primary and two special/alternative provision schools.

Oak Tree School will provide high quality education for children and young people from Year 1 to Year 13 with special educational needs. The school will provide for up to 150 pupils, with an estimated 75 children from each borough.

At Maiden Erlegh Trust, we seek to build a community of schools in which a community ethos prevails in order to nurture, challenge and celebrate young people. At Oak Tree School, we aim to improve the educational outcomes of pupils with complex needs and to ensure all pupils reach their full potential. We will provide a rich and stimulating curriculum, specialist personal development education and therapeutic programmes to provide a safe and happy learning environment for our students.

Our consultation with the community

When an application for a Free School is approved and the proposed provision enters the pre-opening phase, the Trust is required to engage with the local community and other stakeholders of their plans and allow people to respond. This is an expectation under Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010.

For our school to open, there will need to be a contract between our school and the Department for Education (DfE). This is called a Funding Agreement and is a standard document used by all academies which details the key aspects of the trust's responsibilities and how the school will function. If this consultation is not carried out adequately, the Funding Agreement will not be signed.

Maiden Erlegh Trust is delivering a six week period statutory consultation starting at **12 noon Monday 7 June**. The consultation will run until **12:00 noon, Monday 19 July 2021**. We are interested to hear from all stakeholders and the consultation is an important part of the process as it provides the opportunity for stakeholders to feedback in relation to our plans for the school. Maiden Erlegh Trust is committed to build from community engagement as this will help provide a provision tailored for the community, and for the children and their needs.

We want to hear from you

Attend our events

Maiden Erlegh Trust is hosting two Statutory Consultation Events to hear from members of the community about their thoughts regarding the vision and ethos of the school, its impact on the local community, demands for places, and site matters.

All are welcome to attend our drop-in events:

Drop-in event 1:

- Wednesday 30th June 2021, between 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm
- at Maiden Erlegh School, Silverdale Road, Earley, RG6 7HS

Drop-in event 2:

- Thursday 15th July 2021 between 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm
- at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading, 81 Crescent Road, Reading, RG1 5SL

This will be an opportunity to meet members of the Trust, ask questions and share your views. We also encourage you to email questions or comments to us at OTSconsultation@maidenerleghtrust.org when convenient to you.

If you would like to attend one of our events, it is essential that you book a place through our [Booking Form](#). Due to the varying Covid regulations we need to maintain a register of all stakeholders who would like to attend our events, including drop-ins, in case we need to contact you to move the event to a virtual meeting online. It will take you less than a minute to complete and will ensure you receive the most up to date information about our drop-in events, stakeholder consultation and project progress.

Fill in our survey

To share your views, please complete our [online survey](#).

by Monday 19th July 2021, or fill in the form at the end of this brochure and return it at:

Alison Hobby
Head of Marketing and Communications
Maiden Erlegh Trust
Silverdale Road
Earley
Berkshire
RG6 7HS



Our vision

Maiden Erlegh Trust considers each school to be a working community, led by positive and ethical leaders and enriched by staff, parents and students from diverse backgrounds. At our schools we prioritise the education, well-being and happiness of every student. We aim for each school in our Trust to be a school of opportunity and success, so support learners of all abilities to make the most progress possible and enjoy learning. Each school ensures that its students thrive personally as well as academically. We want them to develop confidence, motivated by a strong sense of personal worth and respect for others. As such, we value participation in and contribution to the community, not just the end results.

We aim to bring out the best in students of all abilities and to meet each child's needs. Community, inclusion and respect are key Maiden Erlegh Trust values and they underpin our vision for Oak Tree School. We work with our partners and listen to parents and children to realise this vision. We recognise each and every one of our students as individuals, and seek to nurture their potential, developing the whole child by supporting them intellectually, emotionally, socially, and physically. We will provide:

- A safe, calm, respectful and happy place to work and learn
- Stimulating and challenging learning for all
- High quality and inspiring teaching
- A rich and relevant curriculum
- Varied and exciting extra-curricular opportunities
- High quality and personalised pastoral care
- Strong leaders and staff

Our ethos

We aim to build a community of schools in which a community ethos prevails. The key values that Oak Tree School will aim to uphold are as follows:

- Mutual respect
- Equality
- Inclusion
- An understanding of other cultures
- Empathy with the wider world
- Collaborative and strong work ethic

Our aims

Oak Tree School aims to:

- Provide a safe environment in which all students are able to express their problems and learn appropriate strategies for dealing with them;
- Meet its statutory obligation of providing a curriculum offer, which reflects that of mainstream education. The delivery will be modified to meet the needs of the individual students. All students have access to external accreditation and exams;
- Operate within a caring and therapeutic ethos, thus developing a feeling of self-worth;
- Treat students as functioning members of the Oak Tree family and will work in partnership with parents/carers in the education of the student;
- Assist students in developing an understanding of society through providing a comprehensive enrichment programme including developing skills for life, employability skills;
- Develop emotionally and socially intelligent young people so as to equip each student with the skills required for success with their transition from Oak Tree School to the world of work or College.

Our curriculum and delivery of learning

Our vision focuses relentlessly on nurturing the potential of all pupils and helping them develop intellectually, emotionally, socially and physically. The curriculum will be an integrated matrix of taught and enrichment elements, aimed at developing academic and course learning, cultural capital, personal development and preparation for the world of work and life in modern Britain. As a result, each element will be carefully designed to support and challenge, and to ensure as many doors remain open to our students. This is the case whatever the student's starting point, needs, or potential barriers to learning and achieving their academic and personal potential.

The overriding principle is to analyse the needs of students holistically and work with them, their parents and staff to ensure the best outcome possible, whilst developing their independence, confidence and resilience.

All students are on a *learning journey* which they will continue in order to prepare them for success in later life. In order for that journey to be stimulating, enjoyable and successful for all our students we will ensure that:

- Students have access to curriculum pathways and a broad range of courses appropriate to their strengths, needs and aspirations.
- Students are taught using a wide range of techniques and resources which promote deep learning and understanding.
- Students develop a range of skills and learning habits so that they can manage their own learning as much as possible.
- Students are both supported and challenged where necessary.
- Students and parents know and understand their end of key stage performance targets.
- Students and parents know and understand what they need to do to ensure students make strong progress towards their targets; and
- Teachers and teaching assistants understand how they can help every student in their care to progress along their personal *Learning Journey*.

As a specialist school, we understand the many special educational needs that our young people may have. As part of the Maiden Erlegh Trust family of schools, we are committed to a policy of inclusion. The teaching, learning, achievements, attitudes and well-being of *all* students matters and we believe that all young people, regardless of ability, need and behaviour, should be valued equally.

Admissions

Oak Tree School has been developed in partnership with the Department for Education (DfE), Brighter Futures for Children on behalf of Reading Borough Council, Wokingham Borough Council and Maiden Erlegh Trust, to serve the communities of Reading and Wokingham. It is anticipated that the intake will be largely drawn from Reading and Wokingham, offering 150 places, with the original proposal designed to meet the needs of 75 children from each borough when full. It will provide high-quality education for children with special educational needs, helping them to meet their aspirations and preparing them for the next stage of their lives. The school's ethos will, in partnership with all stakeholders, focus on education and therapies that are relevant to the needs of our children and young people, optimism for their future and joy in the daily life of the school. Relationships with pupils will be built on a foundation of respect and kindness, using therapeutic approaches to behaviour management and social and communication needs.

In particular, the school environment will be such that every child and their parents feel welcome and one where all children have a sense of belonging.

Oak Tree School is a co-educational special school which provides 150 places for children in the age range 5-18 with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN), Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) and/or Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC).

For a child to be admitted, the school must be named, by a local authority, in the child's Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Where a local authority has carried out a statutory assessment and decided to issue an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), it will issue a draft plan to parents.

Parents wishing their children to benefit from the provision should ask their local authority to name the school in their child's EHCP.

However, the final decision on the school to be named rests with the local authority responsible for maintaining the plan.

For further information on the school, and the process for obtaining a place please contact Alison Hobby at Maiden Erlegh Trust on 0118 926 2467, or email OTSconsultation@maidenerleghtrust.org.



Fill in our Survey

Please complete and return our survey by noon on Monday 19th July 2021.

You can either:

- Fill in our [survey online](#)
- Fill in the survey below and send it to OTSconsultation@maidenerleghtrust.org.
- Print, answer and send the survey below to the following address:

Maiden Erlegh Trust

Sliverdale Road
Earley
Berkshire
RG6 7HS

You can send any questions or comments to OTSconsultation@maidenerleghtrust.org.

Q1: Do you support Maiden Erlegh Trust's proposal to open a new special school as part of partnership between the boroughs of Reading and Wokingham?

- Yes
 No
 Don't Know

Please let us know your reasons

Q2: Do you understand and support the proposed Admissions Statement for Oak Tree School?

- Yes
 No
 Don't Know

Please let us know your reasons

Q3: Do you support the proposed curriculum for Oak Tree School?

- Yes
 No
 Don't Know

Please let us know your reasons

Q4: Do you agree that the Oak Tree School should open in September 2022, which would involve entering into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education?¹

- Yes
 No
 Don't Know

Please let us know your reasons

Q5: Do you have any additional comments?

¹ The model Funding Agreement can be found online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-and-free-school-funding-agreements-multi-academy-trust>

Q6: Please let us know your details – I am a:

- Parent/carer of SEND child(ren) due to start school in 2022
- Parent/carer of SEND child(ren) due to start school at a later period
- Parent/carer of child(ren) due to start school in 2022
- Parent/carer of child(ren) due to start school at a later period
- Parent/carer of child(ren) with SEND
- Member of staff at a local school (please specify)
- Local resident
- Local employee/employer/business owner
- Other (please specify)
- Prefer not to say

Additional details on who you are:

Data Protection Act

This form contains personal data as defined by the Data Protection Act 2018. As Data Controller, Maiden Erlegh Trust will protect the personal data provided and ensure that it is not passed to anyone who is not authorised to see it. The information provided will be processed in accordance with the regulations contained in the Act and the Data Protection Policy which is available on oaktreeschool.org. By submitting this form, you agree that Maiden Erlegh Trust may process your information in accordance with these terms.

FAQs

What is a free school?

Free schools are independent, state-funded schools with the same legal status as academies.

Will the school be able to make a profit?

No. The school will be run on a not-for-profit basis by Maiden Erlegh Trust. The school will be run by the Headteacher and their leadership team and they will be answerable to a Local Advisory Board.

What does it mean to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education?

When an academy enters into a Funding Agreement, they effectively enter into a contract between themselves and the Secretary of State for Education. This contract, or Funding Agreement, is how academies are held accountable to the Department for Education.

Will funding the school mean there will be less money for the other special and mainstream provision in the area?

No. Funding for Maiden Erlegh Trust will be worked out equivalent to the funding available to other special schools in the area and it will not reduce the overall funding available.

Will Oak Tree School be inspected by Ofsted?

Yes. The school will be subject to inspection in the same way that other schools are. All new schools are also inspected by Ofsted prior to the school opening and receive ongoing scrutiny from the DfE.

How will the school be accountable?

The school will be run by a Local Advisory Board who will be accountable to the Trustees of Maiden Erlegh Trust. In addition, the school will be accountable to the Secretary of State for Education through the terms of its Funding Agreement. The school will, of course, be accountable day to day to parents/carers and the wider community.

Can the Trust still progress with pre-opening the school during a pandemic?

Yes, the Trust has the capacity to deliver operational and strategic developments during this time. Covid-19 hasn't removed either the need or the capacity to develop future schools to meet the needs of SEND pupils now and for generations to come.

The contractors' work on site to construct the school and the Trust's work on the strategic development and educational planning have been carried out in compliance with Covid guidelines. Furthermore, this consultation will be conducted virtually to ensure the safety of all participants.



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If you would like to receive regular updates about Oak Tree School, please visit our website www.oaktreeschool.org and complete the [online form](#) to register your interest. The website contains a wealth of information about the school and gives details of future events and opportunities to meet with staff who can answer any questions you may have about Oak Tree School.

Email enquiries: OTSconsultation@maidenerleghtrust.org

Telephone enquiries: 0118 9262467

Address:

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