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Mrs J.K.Fearnley OBE - Chief Executive Officer

Mr A Trueman - Chair of Trustees



WILLOW TREE  
Academy



June 2026

Dear Prospective Applicant,

Thank you for expressing an interest in joining Willow Tree Academy.

We are seeking an exceptional, enthusiastic, and committed LEAF Centre Manager who will go above and beyond to transform outcomes for pupils facing significant Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH) barriers to learning. This is a unique opportunity to lead a specialist provision that supports pupils through intensive intervention programmes designed to build confidence, resilience, wellbeing, and readiness to succeed in their educational journey.

At LEAF Centre, we are driven by an unwavering commitment to inclusion and believe that every child deserves the opportunity to thrive, regardless of the challenges they face. We are proud of our nurturing ethos, underpinned by our core values of Passion, Positivity, Aspiration, Commitment, and Tenacity, which shape every aspect of our work with pupils, families, schools, and partner agencies.

As Centre Manager, you will provide both strategic leadership and operational oversight of the LEAF Centre, ensuring a safe, stimulating, and supportive environment where pupils can re-engage with learning and develop the skills needed for successful reintegration into their home school. This hybrid role combines centre management, high-quality teaching, and intensive pastoral support, requiring a leader who can inspire staff, build strong relationships, and maintain high expectations for every learner.

You will lead the development and delivery of an innovative curriculum tailored to the individual needs of pupils with SEMH challenges, while monitoring progress and evaluating the impact of interventions. Working closely with home schools, Primary Inclusion Panels, families, and external agencies, you will coordinate effective support plans and ensure that pupils receive the right help at the right time.

A key aspect of the role is providing direct pastoral support and mentoring to pupils experiencing difficulties such as anxiety, bereavement, low self-esteem, emotional dysregulation, or challenges with peer relationships. Through nurturing relationships, targeted interventions, and positive behaviour support strategies, you will help pupils develop emotional literacy, self-regulation skills, and the confidence to achieve their full potential.

You will also play a vital role in safeguarding, attendance monitoring, and multi-agency working, ensuring that pupils' needs are identified early and addressed through collaborative, child-centred approaches. Alongside this, you will champion a culture of success by celebrating achievements, promoting mental health awareness, and engaging families in the life of the centre through meaningful community events and celebration activities.

Our shared aim is to ensure that every pupil leaves LEAF Centre feeling valued, empowered, and equipped with the skills and strategies they need to flourish both academically and personally. We are committed to

creating a culture where pupils, families, and staff feel respected, supported, and listened to, and where inclusion is at the heart of everything we do.

If you are passionate about making a lasting difference to the lives of vulnerable children and have the vision, resilience, and expertise to lead a specialist SEMH provision, we would be delighted to receive your application.

We warmly welcome visits from prospective candidates. To arrange a time, please contact: [herringthorpe@willowtreeacademy.org](mailto:herringthorpe@willowtreeacademy.org).

Yours sincerely,

*J Fearnley*

Mrs J K Fearnley  
CEO