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Mrs J.K.Fearnley OBE - Chief Executive Officer

Mr A Trueman - Chair of Trustees



WILLOW TREE
Academy



Job Application Pack

For the position of

LEAF CENTRE MANAGER

Salary: £32,916 - £45,352 (*experience dependent*)
Hours: Full time (32.5)

Are you a passionate and inspiring leader with a commitment to transforming the lives of children facing Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) challenges?

We are seeking an exceptional, enthusiastic, and dedicated LEAF Centre Manager to lead our specialist provision, supporting pupils who require intensive intervention to overcome barriers to learning and successfully re-engage with education. This is a unique and rewarding opportunity for an experienced leader who is committed to inclusion and believes every child deserves the opportunity to thrive.

The LEAF Centre provides targeted support for academy pupils and commissioned placements through structured intervention programmes designed to improve wellbeing, behaviour, attendance, engagement, and academic progress. Our aim is to help pupils develop the confidence, resilience, and skills they need to successfully return to mainstream education and achieve their full potential.

As LEAF Centre Manager, you will provide both strategic leadership and operational management of the centre while maintaining a significant teaching and pastoral role. You will lead a dedicated team of SEMH practitioners, oversee the delivery of a high-quality curriculum tailored to individual needs, and work collaboratively with schools, families, and external agencies to secure the best outcomes for every pupil.

We are looking for someone who:

- Has a proven track record of successful leadership and management within an educational setting.
- Has experience of working with children with SEMH needs and a strong understanding of trauma-informed and inclusive practice.
- Can deliver high-quality teaching and learning that engages and motivates vulnerable learners.
- Demonstrates exceptional pastoral skills and can build positive, trusting relationships with pupils and families.
- Has experience of working effectively with multi-agency partners to support children with complex needs.
- Is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
- Has the vision, resilience, and determination to lead continuous improvement and make a lasting difference to young people's lives.

In this role, you will:

- Lead the day-to-day operation and strategic development of the LEAF Centre.
- Manage and support a team of SEMH practitioners and support staff.
- Deliver an innovative curriculum designed to meet the academic, social, emotional, and behavioural needs of pupils.
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of interventions to ensure successful outcomes.
- Provide intensive pastoral support, mentoring, and behaviour intervention for pupils experiencing significant challenges.
- Work closely with home schools, families, inclusion panels, and external agencies to coordinate support and reintegration plans.
- Champion safeguarding, attendance, wellbeing, and positive mental health.
- Foster a culture of success through celebration, recognition, and meaningful community engagement.

We can offer:

- The opportunity to lead a highly valued specialist provision and make a genuine difference to children's lives.
- A supportive and collaborative leadership team.
- High-quality professional development and leadership opportunities.
- A strong commitment to staff wellbeing.
- The chance to work within a values-driven organisation where inclusion is at the heart of everything we do.

If you are an ambitious and compassionate leader who shares our commitment to ensuring every child succeeds, regardless of their starting point, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Join us and help shape brighter futures for the children and families we serve.

Willow Tree Academy Schools are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check and satisfactory references.

Closing date: 03.07.26 (12pm)

Interview date: w/c 06.07.26

Start date: October 2026

Please remember to detail all your experience, the impact your appointment will make in terms of raising standards and why you are the ideal candidate.

Visits to the LEAF Centre are welcomed, please contact herringthorpe@willowtreeacademy.org to arrange a time.

To view our website please visit: <https://www.willowtreeacademy.org/>