Willows Academy Trust

ASPIRE ... ACHIEVE … THRIVE

CEO: Jeannie Haigh

**Information for Prospective Candidates**

Willows Academy Trust (WAT) was established in November 2014 and comprises of two primary schools, one infant school and one junior school we have approximately 1100 pupils. The Trust is based in the East Midlands between Nottingham and Derby. Over a five to eight year period the Trust intends to grow to ten schools.

The Trust recognises that our future lies in creating a collaboration of autonomous schools that meet the needs of all pupils, where academies will be actively encouraged to ensure that their operations meet the specific needs of the community to which they belong.

**Our Future**

Education is ever changing, evolving to meet our ever changing society. Children need and deserve an education that is right for them.

At Willows Academy Trust our ethos is simple. We put children first; we provide them with opportunities and experiences via which they can excel creating a Trust-wide learning culture where together we can achieve excellence.

This ethos is guided by our key values:

***Aspire:***

* To aspire to the highest quality education in an inspirational, learning environment.
* To raise pupils’ aspirations and enable all individuals in our trust community to achieve their potential and ‘dream big’.
* To inspire children to develop a love of learning and grasp new experiences. Look back with pride and forward with confidence.

*Achieve:*

* To continually strive to raise the achievement and attainment of all children in our trust and local community.
* To provide innovative opportunities for staff performance and progression to develop their potential and nurture leaders of the future

*Thrive:*

* To develop a culture which actively promotes all aspects of pupils welfare
* To develop an excellent understanding of how to keep themselves safe in a range of situations and circumstances
* To enable pupils to mature into confident, motivated learners who actively contribute to the wider community.

**Our Vision**

Our Trust aims for all its schools to **collaborate** sharing expertise and skills. We listen to, value and strategically utilise the experience and practice of all. We embrace each other’s strengths and openly support each other’s developments. Learning together makes us stronger.

Our Trust aims for **inclusivity**. We know that success in modern Britain depends upon respecting, understanding and celebrating difference. We welcome all. We endeavour to improve the lives and life chances for our children and their families. As a Trust we nurture, celebrate achievement and recognise success in order that all our children become confident citizens of the future.

Our Trust has a culture amongst all stakeholders that makes it unequivocally clear there are no excuses for children not achieving high standards in their learning and behaviour. Rigorous quality assurance is ensured through strong governance and a framework of **accountability** and **responsibility** by all.

We believe in Leaders Leading. We believe in Teachers Teaching. We believe in Children Learning.

## **The Role of the Academy Governing Bodies**

The Academy Governing Bodies provide support and challenge to headteachers in ensuring every child makes good or better progress and that parents & carers are fully involved in their child’s education. The academy governors are active in supporting our schools they have a variety of experiences and perspectives and come from a range of backgrounds. We value their expertise and input into making our academies successful.

## **The Executive Leadership Group** The Trust operates an Executive Leadership Team (ELT). The ELT is chaired by the Chief Executive Officer and is composed of the Chief Financial Officer, and three founding Trust headteachers. The goal is to support the development and underpin the collaborative intentions of the trust. The ELG meet on a regular basis to consider and advise on the business of the Trust and the improvement of all Academies and any cross-trust initiatives.

## We hope that this information has given you an insight into our ethos, vision and how we work collaboratively across our schools. We look forward to your application if you feel you would like to join our team and make our vision a reality.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Jeannie Haigh

Chief Executive Officer

Willows Academy Trust

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Company Name: Willows Academy Trust (www.willowsacademytrust.co.uk)

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