



21st February 2024

Academy Standards Committee: Helping to make Wrenthorpe Academy Even Better

Dear Parents & Carers,

Over the last few months, the Academy Standards Committee (parent, community and staff governors) have been working together to identify opportunity areas for school. We'd love you to take five minutes to read this letter and consider how you could get involved.

The idea behind the opportunity areas is to help us to achieve some longer term ambitions, alongside the work that is led day-to-day in school. For example, making sure that our curriculum is exciting, consistently well delivered and impactful; and children are supported with their personal development, behaviour and learning skills.

We are exploring the potential of four important areas:

- fundraising, business community and sponsorship
- volunteering
- outdoor learning environment and forest school
- premises and indoor learning environment

There are connections across all of these areas and we can't do everything at once. We are hoping to start to make some changes in the spring and summer terms that will help to achieve even more great things in 2024/25 and beyond.

We're excited by what we can achieve together and to make sure that every part of school and our grounds, is oozing with learning potential to inspire curious minds, help build resilience, spread happiness, and grow independent learners. We want Wrenthorpe Academy pupils to feel valued and create and celebrate amazing learning memories together, both inside and outside of the classroom.

As you may be aware, school budgets are tight and being increasingly stretched. We are working hard to make every pound and penny count in the decisions we're taking. But unfortunately, it won't be enough on its own to achieve all that we know Wrenthorpe pupils deserve.

To help make sure that we can make the biggest difference possible, we will need input from pupils, parents/carers, staff and the wider school community through different forms:

- your ideas and feedback on what you most want to see and why
- time and effort (for example, to help with making days of action and events happen)
- donations (of money or resources)
- your own skills and know-how, or who-you-know (you may have business links or know of budding volunteers)
- and much more!

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs L Penny

Deputy DSL: Mrs S Mayman, Miss K Harrison

If you are worried a child is at risk of harm, contact one of the above or **Social Care Direct on 0345 8503503**
Copies of the **Safeguarding Policy** can be obtained from the school office or downloaded from the school website.



Where Everyone Is Valued

Imperial Avenue
Wrenthorpe
Wakefield
WF2 0LW

Telephone: 01924 378001

Headteacher: Mrs Lauren Penny

Email: wrenthorpeoffice@watertonacademytrust.org

www.wrenthorpeacademy.co.uk



We know things are difficult for many families too right now. If you feel you can support fundraising initiatives that's great, but it's not expected. There's so many different ways in which you and your children can get involved. This work is as much about building a fantastic school community as it is about trying to develop refreshed environments for learning in and having some 'wow' resources that children can feel excited about and proud of.

You'll have already heard about some of our early ideas for fundraising and relaunching the PFA. Thank you if you've already offered your support - it is much appreciated! We are currently a small group of parent volunteers plus staff, doing amazing things on top of their days spent teaching and leading.

The next area we're hoping to get off the ground for the spring, focuses on improving our outdoor learning environment. Please see the flyer attached for more details.

If you would like to know more or have ideas for how we can make this a success please call in, or email the office.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs Kate Stokes (Chair of Governors) and Mrs Lauren Penny (Headteacher)

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs L Penny

Deputy DSL: Mrs S Mayman, Miss K Harrison

If you are worried a child is at risk of harm, contact one of the above or **Social Care Direct on 0345 8503503**
Copies of the **Safeguarding Policy** can be obtained from the school office or downloaded from the school website.



Where Everyone Is Valued

Imperial Avenue
Wrenthorpe
Wakefield
WF2 0LW

Telephone: 01924 378001

Headteacher: Mrs Lauren Penny

Email: wrenthorpeoffice@watertonacademytrust.org

www.wrenthorpeacademy.co.uk



Do you know?

That in the past
Wrenthorpe Academy
has had...

- Thriving allotments for each year group?
- A nature pond?
- A story circle?
- Woodland paths?
- Fire pit area?
- Outdoor classroom?
- Fitness trail?

Sadly, over the last few years, due to the constraints of the pandemic; needs outgrowing budgets; and changes in staff who were our passion-leaders for the outdoors and growing/gardening, we've found it difficult to maintain all of this whilst doing our core job of keeping children safe and helping them to learn.

Why does this matter?

We know that all children benefit from learning actively and in different environments. We're big believers that being in nature is great for teamwork and early leadership skills, preparing children for sensible risk-taking, growing curiosity and confidence and for their physical health and mental wellbeing. For some children in particular, learning outdoors with the variety and sense of freedom this brings, is critical to their happiness and readiness to learn.

So, what's the plan?

Winter – we've already cleared overgrown areas and pruned shrubs.

February – gather volunteers, ideas and resources.

March – start the prep, dig the allotments over and enrich soil. Finalise planting calendar, curriculum links and rota of maintenance helpers.

***April (DATE TBC) – day of action* - sowing, planting and painting with help from parents & pupils**

Summer – tending, picking, cooking, enjoying, and much more!

We'd love to repair what we can and fundraise to replace what we can't.

We welcome support from parents/carers and other family members. Or from local businesses if you have any useful contacts.

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs L Penny

Deputy DSL: Mrs S Mayman, Miss K Harrison

If you are worried a child is at risk of harm, contact one of the above or **Social Care Direct on 0345 8503503**
Copies of the **Safeguarding Policy** can be obtained from the school office or downloaded from the school website.



Where Everyone Is Valued

Imperial Avenue
Wrenthorpe
Wakefield
WF2 0LW

Telephone: 01924 378001

Headteacher: Mrs Lauren Penny

Email: wrenthorpeoffice@watertonacademytrust.org

www.wrenthorpeacademy.co.uk



I can help by (please tick):

	Offering my time for action days/events
	Offering my time as a regular volunteer to help maintain the outdoor area
	Offering my knowledge and skills (e.g. gardening, growing, baking/cooking from produce) Please state:
	Loaning or donating gardening tools to school Please state:
	Helping to fundraise
	Possibly providing donations of resources needed (wish list TBC but will include compost, fertilisers, seeds, bulbs etc. for the allotments and bigger items e.g. playground markings, fitness trail equipment, outdoor classroom) Please state:
	Providing professional skills (e.g. through gifting/sponsorship or company volunteering to help with landscaping, gardening, joinery, line markings etc) Please state:
	Something else, please state:

Your name and email address:	
Relationship to pupil:	
Pupil's name:	
Pupil's class	

**Please return to the school office by Wednesday, 28th February.
Thank you for your support. We'll be in touch.**

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs L Penny

Deputy DSL: Mrs S Mayman, Miss K Harrison

If you are worried a child is at risk of harm, contact one of the above or **Social Care Direct on 0345 8503503**
Copies of the **Safeguarding Policy** can be obtained from the school office or downloaded from the school website.