

Maharishi School in Lancashire

Funding Consciousness-based Education



The Maharishi School is a government funded free school in Lancashire, which works to develop the full potential of pupils through the regular daily practice of Transcendental Meditation and understanding of consciousness for the full development of life. The school is currently seeking funding to enable it to continue to thrive and improve its offering of Consciousness-Based Education (CBE), and give children at the school the best possible start in life.

A brief history

The Maharishi School was founded as a small private school in 1986 by members of the TM community in Skelmersdale: it started with 14 pupils. The majority of the staff were TM teachers, dedicated to developing their own consciousness and familiar with the principles and practice of CBE. The school started with kindergarten and went to GCSE level, Year 11, and at one point had more than 100 pupils.

When the new government was elected in May 2010, the Maharishi School had 70 pupils and its long-term financial future was under severe strain being a private school situated in a financially challenged area with high unemployment. The current chair of the school's board of governors, Ian Birnbaum O.B.E., was, in 2010 the Director of Children's services for the London Borough of Sutton. In June 2010 the government launched its Free School programme and Ian advised the Maharishi School to apply, and they were one of the first 24 schools to be approved by the Department for Education (DfE).

TM is recognised by the DfE as essential to the school's ethos and learning the practice of TM is part of the staff's contract of employment. Lessons about consciousness, now called Consciousness-Based Life Skills, are an approved part of the weekly curriculum. The Maharishi School is allocated a budget from the DfE which covers the costs of staff, maintenance etc., but it does not cover the cost of teaching TM or staff training in CBE.

The current situation:

The school now has around 233 pupils with around 20 in each of the 12 year groups. The primary school is about half the size of the average and the secondary school, with around 100 pupils, is about one seventh of the average in England. DfE funding is directly related to the number of pupils and as the Maharishi School is small, salaries tend to be one third less than at larger schools. The school has been successful in attracting funding to teach TM to pupils and staff.

The government inspectors, OFSTED, consistently rate it as a Good school. The school currently has one member of staff, MareAnna Ingram, who is a TM teacher. As an almost fully government funded Maharishi School, **it is unique in the world** and it is essential that it is flourishing in all areas. Many of the staff are relatively new meditators or even brand new meditators. The school does not currently have a budget either for staff development and staff training relating to the growth and understanding of consciousness in education.

Our goal: Growing Consciousness-Based Education:

The school was established to promote consciousness-based education and we want to ensure this remains at the core of the school's values. To do this, all staff need to be fully trained in delivering Consciousness Based Education (CBE) and for them to be living the values of the school in their own lives.

What we have already done:

In June the Maharishi School appointed an experienced member of staff, Ellen Freel, as the new head of the Consciousness Department, who will start in September. We have already raised the funds for the current Head Teacher, Lisa Edwards, to do the TTC for professionals, which she will complete in September 2027:

<https://digitaltranscendentalmeditationteachertraining.org/>

What still needs to be done:

We need to raise £20,000.00 per annum to be **used only** for staff training for CBE and to subsidise the costs of techniques for the development of consciousness. Staff living and understanding the values of CBE in their own lives will inspire the pupils, further enhance the quality of education, and maintain and improve still further its Ofsted grades.

Here is how the amount would be used for the forty members of staff:

Annual Investment	Impact Area & What It Achieves

£4,000	Teacher Training Courses (TTC): Educating full-time staff to become certified TM teachers.
£4,000	Development Retreats: Weekend retreats to deepen staff practice and revitalize their energy.
£3,000	Advanced Consciousness Techniques: Unlocking deeper personal practice over time.
£3,000	TM-Sidhis Program: Advanced training to enrich teachers' spiritual and professional growth.

The fund-raising will not attract any administration costs, and will be coordinated by Barry Spivack, with assistance from Ric Law and Sarah Bence. As the world's only government funded Maharishi School it is essential that the Consciousness-based Education Department has a sufficient budget. If you would like to help then you may donate here:
<https://maharishischool.com/donations>

If you are a UK tax-payer please tick the box to add gift aid and choose the CBE option, which provides an extra 25% to your donation.

Thank you, Barry, Ric, Sarah, Ian and Lisa.

