



Maharishi School

CONSCIOUSNESS-BASED EDUCATION

PROPOSED EXPANSION FUNDRAISING



Maharishi School, Cobbs Brow Lane, Lathom, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L40 6JJ, UK
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Introduction



Headteacher, Mrs Lisa Edwards, with primary and secondary phase pupils.

The Maharishi School in West Lancashire, which was founded in 1985, is unusual in many ways. It is the only school in the UK, and one of only a handful in the world, to offer the unique system of Consciousness-based Education (CbE), founded by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi.

CbE supplements regular education models by actively developing the pupils' consciousness – their ability to know – with the simple mental technique of Transcendental Meditation (TM), and an additional curriculum subject to strengthen the pupils' connection to their subjects. For more detail, follow this link – <https://maharishischool.com/expansionproject>

Set up in 1985 by a group of parents who wanted their children to benefit from this comprehensive educational model, the school was by necessity, initially an independent school, with small class sizes. Prompted by its outstanding academic performance and Ofsted reports, in 2011 the Maharishi School was one of the first 23 state-funded Free Schools approved by the then coalition government. As a result, it is also the only state-funded, all-through school in Lancashire, with pupils starting in Reception and continuing straight through to Year 11 and their GCSEs. Since 2012 the school has divided the primary and secondary phases and operated on two separate sites.

The Maharishi School's success has been despite the smaller than usual class sizes, resulting in limited, pupil-based Department for Education (DfE) funding, and that the school's premises do not actually meet the DfE's minimum school space standards.

From the starting point of being a very small school, drawing on a largely self-selecting demographic, due to its enviable local popularity and unique educational model, since becoming a Free School, Maharishi School has increased its class size 4 times to the current size of 20 pupils per class.

However, with strong waiting lists for most classes (eg: at the time of writing, 41 for year 6, and 22 for year 7) and 40 years of successful operation, it is time for the school to move onto a new single site, with all the space and facilities enjoyed by other schools.

We therefore wish to raise funds to develop purpose-built premises, with the primary and secondary phases together on one site, with improved science lab and art facilities and other required dedicated spaces, and our own sport provision. In this our 40th anniversary year, we feel it is time for Maharishi School pupils to be offered all the school facilities that other children take for granted.

Scan the QR code for a video of the school sites



The Primary Phase



Maharishi School's primary phase currently occupies a converted barn and a purpose-built, timber-framed building housing the Reception class, in a semi-rural location in Lathom, just outside Skelmersdale, Lancashire. At one time the barn housed both the primary and secondary phases, supplemented by two temporary buildings.

Maharishi Primary School - The Davies Building

Currently the barn houses 6 classrooms, a reception/office, a small library/intervention space in near constant use, the Head and

Deputy Head's shared office and a small staff room. The classrooms are just big enough for the class size of 20 pupils. There is no school hall, dining room/kitchen or spare space. Pupils eat lunch in their classrooms and the before & after school clubs also operate from classrooms. As well as other operational considerations, both of these situations prohibit teachers from using their classrooms at lunchtime or after school. The staff room is also unsuitable at these times.

The separate Reception classroom - The Richard Scott Qube

The Reception classroom building also provides an administration office and is supplemented by a garden shed provided for pupils with special needs.



The Secondary Phase

Maharishi School's secondary phase occupies a converted sports centre – The Morris Birnbaum Building – in the built-up area of Ashurst in Skelmersdale. It is a straight-line distance of 684 metres from the current primary phase site and a 1 mile drive. The school took full possession of the building on becoming a Free School, and it was occupied in the Easter of 2012, following its conversion by the DfE.

Maharishi School Secondary phase – The Morris Birnbaum Building

The secondary building provides 5 classrooms, including a science lab, two small offices for the secretary and Deputy Head, and a very small staff room. As with the primary site, there is no school hall, dining room/kitchen or spare space, and pupils eat



their lunch in classrooms. The staff room is often used for meetings and interventions and also, like the primary phase, garden sheds are used for a small group work. Pupils currently go to sport offsite, at great expense.

The school has a team progressing this proposed expansion project, which has identified a favoured site from a number of potential locations in the area and are working towards acquisition. All the sites considered provide enough land for the school to combine both phases on one site again and to provide the facilities the school is currently lacking. This will include an indoor sport hall and an outdoor playing field, good size playgrounds and car parking. The new buildings would incorporate up to date, environmentally beneficial energy sources, such as solar panels and heat pumps.

Moving to new buildings on one site will provide enormous financial savings in terms of utilities and not having to travel off site for PE/sport. Currently the primary phase goes offsite for PE for half of the school year, and the secondary phase for the whole year. This entails not only the charges for the hired venues but also the substantial transportation costs and exceeds the cost of maintaining an in-school sport facility. The school will also have the opportunity for revenue streams from hiring out our premises to outside groups.

The school is applying to the Department for Education (DfE) for permission to acquire the relevant land and develop the new, purpose-built facility for the whole school. We are also commissioning RICS valuations of both of the school's current sites and are in the process of obtaining professional plans and costings from specialist educational building consultants for the new development, on a no win-no fee basis.

Appeal for funds

Maharishi School cannot achieve this ambitious project without help. In this our 40th anniversary year, please assist us to realise the goals of having the facilities for our pupils that they deserve, by donating, or pledging your help, as soon as possible. The school has a designated high interest-bearing bank account for holding any funds raised as part of this appeal and has set aside £32,000 in this account to get things underway. The proceeds from the sale of the existing sites will also be put into this project but will not be available until after the move onto the new site.



The initial amount we need to urgently raise is £2,000,000 to cover the land purchase and associated costs. Overall, until firm costings are finalised, we are working on the basis of a total cost of up to £20,000,000 for the fully developed building.

Financial donations, whether large one-off payments, or smaller, regular amounts will be

gratefully received and much appreciated. Any collected donations will only be used for these projects, unless specified otherwise by the donors. All contributions will be treated confidentially, also unless specified by the donors. The funds raised will be treated as applicable for any aspect of fulfilling this aspiration.

Other forms of help are also welcome. This could be professional assistance, suitable contacts able to contribute, products and services donations, etc.

Any queries about either the project, or about receipt/use of any monies being contributed, should be directed to expansion@maharishischool.com.

For donations, our bank details are: Account name – Maharishi School Trust Ltd, Account number – 34302068, Sort code – 305466, or make a donation at our Crowdfunder site – Maharishi School Expansion. Regular payments can be set up via Crowdfunder and most online bank accounts, but if you require a hard copy standing order mandate please contact the school. For UK tax-payers a gift aid declaration is attached for one off or regular donations, so that we can claim 25% from HMRC, to maximise your contribution. When completed, the signed hard copies of these should be returned to the school by post marked for the attention of the Business Manager, or email to expansion@maharishischool.com.

Donors of significant amounts are warmly invited to visit the school by arrangement before committing. For larger donations, which you may wish to keep yourself until they are actually required by the school, please complete the attached pledge form and return to expansion@maharishischool.com.

For more detailed information, please visit <https://maharishischool.com/expansionproject>



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