

2nd October 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Data Sharing between Outwood Grange Academies Trust and Wakefield and District Housing (WDH)

I write further to the letter sent by the academy a few weeks ago and would like to apologise for the concern this letter prompted. Your valuable feedback quickly alerted us to the confusion we had caused and the lack of clarity as to why we wanted to share this data. Our explanation was unclear and had we better explained our rationale unnecessary upset and concern could have been avoided. We also did not make it sufficiently clear that any decision to agree to WDH and the academy sharing your data was **entirely voluntary**. We greatly value our relationship with our community, and it was never our intention to cause any concern. We made a mistake.

Our intent was to support our community. Over the last year we have been working with WDH to look at ways that we can jointly support the communities that we both work in. This has included WDH supporting students in community projects, such as Vale Head Park, as well as a senior leader from WDH spending time in the academy to try to understand how education and housing could work in partnership. We hoped to better support those families that both organisations work with providing improved avenues of assistance that could be more easily accessed by housing and education working together with the family, rather than in isolation. Examples may have included streamlining support from WDH and the academy when families are in times of challenge or facing difficulty and need a more coordinated approach to the support they can receive.

We are aware of incorrect rumours and gossip suggesting that the data would be misused to influence exclusions or negative actions by both organisations. This was categorically never the case. Both Outwood and WDH share a similar philosophy in wanting to support and champion children and members of our community. Our intention was only ever to explore ways to better target support and offering improved services to our community.

We respect and understand the strength of feeling in the community not to share data. We have listened to your feedback and **we will not pursue this data sharing idea any further**. Please **discard our previous correspondence and privacy notice**. A new privacy notice will be issued to students removing the WDH data sharing section.

If you have any continuing concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the academy. Please accept our apologies for any worries our letter may have caused, this was never our intention as we greatly value the positive relationship we have with our community.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Rachael Skirrow
Principal

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