

Leading the way for Financial Services for Derby City's Maintained Schools

Who are we?

Derby's Schools Finance Team have been supporting schools for over 20 years and are rated the No 1 sold service package by Derby Schools, our unique blend of personalised on-site support and detailed school finance knowledge has resulted in the team being able to evolve with the times and constantly be at the fore front of support for Derby Schools, giving schools confidence in our knowledge and understanding of school's financial issues and the constant impact from a changing political landscape.

- We have access to the Council's strategic vision and direction for schools funding which enables your financial planning to be accurate; the Council's plans that are in place for future formula changes; the investment planned future funding levels for formula factors; strategic Schools Forum issues.
- We have a large dedicated team giving you access to a range of professional fully qualified staff and have the ability to quickly immobilise staff should your demands change.
- We have access to other professionals to enable us to advise on a wide range of issues including taxation, procurement, financial systems.
- We are a not for profit organisation, our income generated supports those professionals supporting you.
- We work alongside other Children's services ensuring we have first-hand knowledge of any potential issue affecting the funding in your school; high needs allocations, pupil premium payments.
- We pride ourselves as an employer that professionals want to work for, we ensure that all our professional staff participate in the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) schemes of their accounting bodies, keeping them up to date with technical changes.





What can we offer you?

Finance is a complex issue and our team of Chartered and Certified Accountants plus our Qualified Accounting Technicians are committed to giving schools a professional accounting experience, we understand the modern day pressures faced by schools and the changing landscape of education.

Working with us not only ensures that your Governors, Head-teachers and Senior School Staff comply with their financial responsibilities, be able to demonstrate robust financial controls and uphold the governance of the school, allowing your school to focus on what is most important, your children.

Our Services

Based on a customer led approach we offer a range of bespoke service to Derby City's Maintained Schools.

We act as advisory partners to the school as well as offering objective view points and alternative financial considerations in times of hardship.



Financial Management Services (FMS)

A bespoke service to your school enhancing the financial management at the schools. You will benefit from a dedicated, professional finance officer who understands your school coupled with the national changes to the school funding system as well as...

- Compliance with the Scheme for Funding Schools/Consistent Financial reports and best practice guidance
- Strategic management planning with access to a 3 year budget planning tool
- Budget monitoring support including strategic reports for leadership
- Financial training for all schools
- Access to a telephone query service
- A choice of on-site or virtual financial meetings
- Procurement advice
- Attendance at Governor meetings.
- Efficiency reviews and salary reconciliations
- Access to policy templates
- Training for leadership team and governors.

Strategic Financial Services

A bespoke service for those schools facing uncertain budget pressures. An individualised budget planning tool to assist schools in preparing a 3 year budget plan.

- Working alongside your HR specialists to support you on restructure costs, redundancy implications and TUPE financial impact
- Financial efficiency health check
- Contracting and procurement advice.

Financial Advisory Services

Tailored for those schools who require adhoc support throughout the year.

- Advice and Guidance on internal control and audit compliance
- External audit support
- Strategic support to Head, Governors and leadership team
- Advice and guidance on the school's financial performance
- Value for Money Reviews
- Assisting with recruitment process of new school based finance support.



Design your own support

Whilst we offer whole scale packages to suit schools needs we also offer a package to those schools who may be faced with short term demands or long term absences, our services may include any of the following and schools are encourage to design a package from a pick list.

- Financial planning, monitoring and budgeting support to schools visits are tailored to the schools requirements either via onsite support or via remote access
- Access to tools for budget planning, forecast monitoring and cashflow
- Guidance on the Scheme for Funding schools, consistent financial reports including internal controls and recommended policies practice, including internal controls and recommended policies
- Support on Self-Assessment audit procedures
- Audit of specified internal controls and policy implementation
- Support with external audit
- Accounting Entries Technical Support
- Benchmarking
- Financial performance assessments
- Governor Reports
- Presentation of reports
- Invoice processing (depending on access to the financial ledger)
- Project Support
- Value for Money Reviews.



Financial Training

We have been training schools in financial competences for over 20 years. All our courses give schools the opportunity to share experiences and network, as well as our standard offer schools can request training designed on the need of your school. Our participants have included Head teachers, Deputy Heads, school business managers, governors, NQTs and admin staff.

Due to the number of Maintained Schools, all courses are subject to a minimum of 10 attendees. Whereby Schools require on-site training then a bespoke package can be arranged.

We pride ourselves that on all of our courses 100% of our feedback was excellent or good.

Introduction to Finance

Includes basic accounting principles, overview of the basics of financial regulations and year-end requirement all delivered via practical examples and exercises.

Introduction to Finance Procedures, Policies and the Scheme for funding schools

Building on our popular Introduction to Finance this training is more detailed covering Procedures, Policies and the Scheme for funding schools.

Budget Monitoring

The course aim is to enable staff to confidently challenge, interpret and report on financial information.

Financial Monitoring Responsibilities in Schools

Are you responsible for spending decisions within school? This course is aimed at all staff who have a responsibility for budget monitoring. The course covers roles and responsibilities, financial timetables, recommended regular duties, and the required level of information necessary for governors.

Decision Making

The course is aimed at those involved in critical spending decisions within the school; the session covers setting budgets, financial implications of actions, decision making, business cases and contract management.

Finance Training Head Teachers

Specifically aimed at new and/or acting head teachers and deputy head teachers. covering how schools are funded, consideration for compliance with SFVS, understanding Budget statements and Budget monitoring reports, reporting to governors, tools available for budget setting, benchmarking and contract management.

Bespoke Governor Training

Specifically aimed at Governors with a financial responsibility, this evening/ daytime course covers budget setting, monitoring a budget, benchmarking aid to decision making, self-assessment of financial responsibility and governance arrangement, approval limits, financial regulations and best practice.

Contact Us

General enquiries should be sent to: schoolfinanceteam@derby.gov.uk

Phone - 01332 640784

Website - <https://sip.derby.gov.uk/finance/contact-us/>

School Financial Services

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