



Raising the bar

Our services for Sixth Form Colleges

What we do for clients

We have worked with sixth form college clients from their inception. This means Eversheds Sutherland has the right experience to provide your institution with a comprehensive one-stop shop for all of your legal needs, whether it be in relation to governance, HR, student, commercial, regulatory, real estate or litigation matters. Our work in the academy sector also enables us to fully support academies and academy project work for colleges – we are currently advising on a number of sixth form college academy conversion projects and understand the unique aspects of these transactions.

Our services are delivered by a dedicated multi-disciplinary team of lawyers whose work is focused on the further education and academy sectors. We work with colleges, academies, multi-academy trusts, free schools, studio schools and UTCs and sponsor institutions.

We pride ourselves on being straightforward and accountable for the services we deliver.

How we can support your college

Academy projects

Whether you are converting as a single or multi-academy trust or a sponsor (or are part of) an existing multi academy trust, we are able to provide you with comprehensive legal support covering: due diligence; company administration; dissolution requirements; consultation obligations; expanding a MAT; real estate transfers; varying, negotiating and settling key academy documents (e.g. funding agreement, commercial transfer agreement); transfer of staff; and pensions advice.

Our team also assist academies with their ongoing compliance and statutory obligations under the Companies Act 2006, ensuring that all Companies House returns and statutory registers are correctly completed and filed by specified deadlines.

Fixed cost legal helpline services

We know that the most effective way to manage risks is to ensure that your team has easy fixed cost access to high quality legal advice. We also know that fixing problems after they have occurred can be time consuming and expensive.

To encourage the seeking of early advice our service will give you access to 20 minutes of telephone or email advice per item, with no limit on the number of items that may be raised. The helpline covers access to advice on HR, student, contract, estates, information law and regulatory matters.

Our helpline will be run by members of your existing client service team who have invested time in getting to know your college and how it likes to operate. We do not operate a call centre approach and we will not permit junior staff to answer helpline calls.

College and academy governance subscription services

Eversheds Sutherland has created a fixed-cost service for clerks, company secretaries, directors and members. Our helplines gives 24-hour access via phone or email to our team of governance professionals. It covers any query in relation to:

- instrument and articles/articles of association
- funding documents
- charity law
- schemes of delegation
- roles of directors and members
- statutory registers and Companies House returns
- relationships between sponsors and academy trusts
- conduct of board and general meetings
- collaboration arrangements and service sharing

The helpline is accompanied by provision of an annotated copy of the Instrument and Articles (Colleges) and the DfE's model memorandum and articles (Academies), model policies (including a conflicts policy and a code of conduct for members/trustees) and access to a dedicated Extranet.

Annual HR/student retainers

Our retainers allow you to secure comprehensive HR/student support for your institution on a fixed fee basis. This would typically include:

- access to a helpline
- review of policies and procedures
- drafting/amending key correspondence
- access to webinars, electronic bulletins and updates
- in-house training sessions or legal advice surgeries

Key areas of advice

- academy conversion/establishment
- establishing federations and other collaborative arrangements
- charity law
- procurement/outsourcing
- commercial contracts
- shared use agreements
- hiring agreements
- leases
- PFI/priority schools building scheme
- TUPE, reorganisations, mergers, industrial relations and investigations
- disciplinary, grievance, sickness absence and performance matters
- drafting/reviewing contracts and handbooks
- national pay frameworks
- discrimination legislation and diversity
- Teachers' and Local Government pensions schemes
- severance and settlement agreements
- employment tribunal representation
- HR consultancy
- Schools Admissions Code
- exclusions
- judicial review applications
- discrimination cases/SENDIST proceedings
- child protection/vetting and barring
- immigration
- health and safety
- data protection/freedom of information

These services can be tailored to meet specific needs of any institution no matter how big or small.

What happens next?

For more information please contact:



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For a no-obligation conversation on the services we can offer please contact one of the team. Please also visit our web page <http://www.eversheds-sutherland.com/global/en/where/europe/uk/sectors/education/academies.page?>

"Possesses significant expertise in the education sector...Advises...FE colleges and sector associations. Steeped in all facets of governance and regulatory compliance, as well as the full spectrum of contentious matters."

"Eversheds aligns the right people at the right level for the job at hand. They're also timely and proactive."

"The team is always very clear and concise in its advice."

"They are client-focused and solution-based."

Chambers and Partners

"Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP acts as trusted adviser to numerous further education providers.... With its broad local, national and international offering, it is able to cover employment work, charity law, litigation and dispute management issues, real estate matters, corporate and commercial issues, intellectual property work, health and safety mandates, constitutional issues and regulatory matters. Practice members also often advise the government and the main FE sector bodies on education regulations."

"Responsive and experts in their fields."

"The customer facing approach provided by Eversheds; their speed of response; their obvious specialism and current knowledge of the further education sector."

"Extremely knowledgeable. Well resourced and therefore able to respond to requirements with alacrity. Feels like an extension of our organisation and that they are working to our best interests."

"Eversheds Sutherland provide an excellent service to the Further Education Sector. Eversheds Sutherland are hugely knowledgeable in governance matters."

Legal 500

