drb

Schools & Academies Services Limited

drb Schools and Academies Services

2026-2027 SERVICES

Excellent

Financial Management Support

Essential

Leadership Briefings and Courses

Welcome

I am delighted to present our latest service brochure.

We continually look for ways to improve services but our fundamentals of high quality and reliable support at a competitive price remain in place.

Our greatest asset is our friendly, knowledgeable and experienced team of staff. Feedback from schools about the quality of support provided by them is consistently excellent.

Our commitment / slogan remains as “with children and young people at the heart of all that we do” and this points to the ethos and values of the company; by providing effective financial assurance and school improvement, the education of pupils can be enhanced.

I truly believe that the support detailed in the following pages will add real value to the great work that continues to be done in schools and academies across the country whether this is to provide you with additional capacity in your finance team, to share the latest important information with your leadership team, to enhance you current reporting or simply to cover a vacant post.

Andrew Pilmore
Chief Executive Officer

Our Services

Each of our team is an expert in working within the education sector and can act as your trusted adviser by adding specialist skills and capacity to your team.

Our strategy is a clear one and has served us well – the provision of knowledgeable, friendly and experienced consultants who, as part of your school team, can deliver financial assurance and sustainable long term value.

There are many legislative changes that affect finance in schools and academies. The team at drb is proactive in interpreting these and tailoring bespoke solutions to respond to these changes. We are aware of the ever increasing demands being placed on your education settings and we aim to assist by adapting our services accordingly to meet your requirements.

The financial pressures in the education sector are relentless. Our in-depth knowledge and experience can help schools to survive and even thrive. As a partner to your school, we can identify the challenges that you face and provide the strategic input and operational support to successfully overcome them.

The range of services is a broad one, from the provision of expert Strategic Financial Management services, through to delivering Senior Leaders' Briefings and bespoke training courses. drb Schools and Academies Services has an excellent reputation for quality performance and caring for its clients.

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Academy & MAT Services *Go to page*

Mentoring and Support for financial teams *Go to page*

School Leadership Briefings & Courses *Go to page*

Maintained School Services

Effective, efficient and robust financial management is essential in all schools and drb Schools and Academies Services is here to support you in achieving this.

drb has been supporting schools in the Maintained sector for a number of years and is very familiar with the pace of change and the day-to-day pressures that schools face to deliver high quality services.

Our team of qualified consultants can provide bespoke support dependent on the needs and resources of the individual school. We can provide services for your school including those listed on the right of this page.

Strategic School Business Manager service *Find out more*

Annual budget planning support *Find out more*

Finance and administration cover service *Find out more*

Financial forecasting and reporting *Find out more*

Audit of private and unofficial funds *Find out more*

Preparation for internal audit & SFVS *Find out more*

For individual bespoke costings, contact:

Lee Schofield
Director

Get in touch

#drbsas

“drb have always been there for our school and have demonstrated a passion in what they do. They work closely with Governors and the auditors to ensure that the year-end accounts are produced on time and any issues raised are resolved.”

Headteacher, Birmingham

“We have used drb for a number of years to support our school during a time of major change and financial challenge. I have always found them to be proactive and adaptable, willing to attend and support us with meetings at all levels including Governors and Local Authority. Their advice has been invaluable - clear, concise reports are produced that enable leaders to address issues and plan for the future with confidence in the accuracy of the data.”

Headteacher, Birmingham

Academy & MAT Services

Whether you are already an academy, are going through the conversion process or just thinking of becoming an academy, drb is here to help.

Academies are charitable companies limited by guarantee, which means they need to comply with the stringent financial governance and reporting requirements set out in company law, charity law and as directed by the Secretary of State.

drb's specialist academy team offers a comprehensive range of essential services to support financial and resource management in academies. In addition the team can guide you and your key stakeholders through the implications of conversion, the processes involved and the on-going support required once converted. We can provide services for your school including those listed on the right of this page.

Academy conversion support *Find out more*

Audit of private and unofficial funds *Find out more*

Finance and administration cover service *Find out more*

Internal Control & Governance Review service *Find out more*

Integrated Curriculum and Financial Planning *Find out more*

Multi Academy Trust Services *Find out more*

Strategic Financial Management support *Find out more*

For individual bespoke costings, contact:

Nikki Foster
Head of Operations
and People

Get in touch

“The advice and support we received from drb has been excellent. From the very first meeting through to the establishment of the MAT, they have kept us informed of progress all the way. Our consultant ensured that legal matters and issues with the LA were dealt with as swiftly as possible and allowed the headteachers to focus on the educational side of the Trust. There were a number of obstacles that needed to be overcome during the process, and drb were always on hand with sound advice and guidance.”

Chief Executive Officer, Worcestershire

“drb have provided an outstanding service in respect of advice and guidance on the establishment of our MAT and the infrastructure required to support our schools”

Executive Headteacher, Coventry

“Our drb project manager was amazing and made the whole conversion process stress-free!”

Business Manager, Birmingham

Mentoring and Support for financial teams

With the ESFA's continual push to expand existing Academy Trusts and create new ones, the challenge to ensure all compliance deadlines are met and to implement efficient processes is becoming greater.

drb supports developing Trusts to manage the implementation of these processes and to add capacity to the central MAT infrastructure to ensure all compliance deadlines are met.

This capacity can be anything from providing support at Trust level until appointments are made or mentoring and training current employees, including CFO's.

The ultimate aim is to ensure that the MAT is able to operate effectively using resources from within the Trust and keeping outsourcing to a minimum.

drb's experience of working with Trusts has involved:

- Establishing Management Reporting Templates using the financial management systems source data, including the main KPI's
- Reviewing all statutory policies
- Assisting with the preparation and completion of the FMGS
- Salary Projections / Reconciliations / Variance analysis
- Training for the Board and Senior Leadership Teams

For individual bespoke costings, contact:

Nikki Foster
Head of Operations
and People

Get in touch

School Leadership Briefings & Courses

Our senior leadership briefings are an essential termly update to ensure that headteachers, principals and senior teams are fully updated with the latest from the Department for Education, the ESFA, Ofqual and Ofsted.

Delegates will hear the latest up-to date advice on Assessment, Government issues, Funding, Leadership, Early Years, Teaching, Pupils' personal development and Inspection updates.

Currently, our briefings are being delivered as a combination of remote and in-person sessions. Included in the price of a single briefing, delegates now receive:

- a weekly update summarising all of the latest developments
- any time-essential updates via email
- support with any questions or issues within 24-48 hours

School Leadership Briefings
From £130 (+VAT) per delegate

Find out more

Book a cluster session for your team

Find out more

Courses
From £90 (+VAT) per delegate

Find out more

Governor Briefings
£100 (+VAT) per term

Find out more

Finance Briefings
£90 (+VAT)

Find out more

For more information, contact:

Tracy Davis
Network Coordinator

Get in touch

“Many thanks to the team at drb for their continued support with the daily briefings. I have really appreciated the support and guidance from these briefings as ever presented with clarity and humour!”

Headteacher, Birmingham

“drb leadership briefings are invaluable! They help me to keep up-to-date, especially with the national agenda in terms of achievement, curriculum development and Ofsted.”

Principal, Hereford

“Thank you for everything you have shared with us since the beginning of the covid craziness! The daily/ weekly updates were so useful and I don’t think you will ever have any idea how sane they kept us!

Headteacher, Leicester

“A huge thank you from myself and my SLT for the invaluable briefings from drb. They were a lifesaver and saved so much time.”

Headteacher, Worcester

Get in touch

If you are interested in any of the services detailed in this brochure, please get in touch. We are always happy to discuss service requirements and can attend schools at a time to suit you. There haven't been too many occasions where we have been unable to support a School / Trust with its specific needs and I'd welcome contact at any time to talk about how we can help.

With best regards to you and all at your school(s).

Nikki Foster
Head of Operations and People

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