

Academies specialist legal support

We are committed to the education sector and understand the challenges and opportunities it faces in this time of change. Whether you are considering academy conversion, transferring to a multi academy trust or expanding your multi academy trust, Hempsons are able to guide you through the process and beyond.

Why choose Hempsons?

Hempsons is a leading national firm with offices in London, Harrogate, Manchester and Newcastle. We have extensive experience in the public sector acting for NHS bodies, social care providers and educational institutions. Our specialist charities and social enterprise team is ranked in the top 10 of specialist legal advisers to the UK's biggest charities.

Our team includes solicitors with particular experience of the education sector, including advising on academy conversions and re-brokerage arrangements, as well as ongoing post conversion support. We consider advising on a conversion or transfer to be the beginning of a long-term relationship.

Expertise in academy conversions and transfers

Our expertise means we can help schools with the legal aspects of academy conversion and transfers, including:

- Preparing the articles of association for the academy trust and clearing the articles with DfE
- Preparing the funding agreement and clearing it with DfE
- Preparing the transfer agreement and negotiating with the local authority
- Advising on the transfer of staff, assets and liabilities
- Preparing the lease or other land document(s) and negotiating with the local authority
- Negotiating with any religious authority or trust, where applicable.

Our practical approach will give you a smooth academy conversion or transfer, guiding governors and school leaders through the process, so that you can focus on running your school or multi academy trust.

Full service for schools

We have specialist lawyers covering all aspects of academy conversions, transfers and post conversion legal support, including expertise in governance, property, employment, commercial contracts, procurement, data protection, freedom of information, Ofsted regulation, safeguarding and child protection, admissions and exclusions. Our expertise covers:

- Community, voluntary and foundation schools
- First, primary, middle, secondary and high schools
- Single academy trusts, multi-academy trusts and umbrella trusts
- Faith schools
- Special schools
- Alternative provision
- 16-19 academies and sixth form colleges
- PFI/BSF schools
- Converter academies and sponsored academies, including 're-brokering' arrangements
- Setting up free schools, studio schools and university technical colleges

Fixed costs

Our approach is to discuss your conversion and transfer requirements with you and agree a fixed price. This gives you clarity and certainty from the outset.

Meet the experts



HELEN HIRST

Associate

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Helen's experience of the education sector includes steering community, foundation, faith and PFI schools through the Academy conversion process. In addition, Helen advises multi academy trusts on acquiring existing academies through re-brokerage arrangements, as well as assisting academies who are themselves being transferred to multi academy trusts. She attends quarterly meetings with the Department for Education regarding academy conversion issues and policy decisions.



DEBORAH RAMSHAW

Partner

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Deborah advises schools and other educational institutions on public procurement and outsourcing contracts, and ensuring schools get the best value from their suppliers. In her spare time she is a member of an academy trust.

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