

Education

Hewitsons has a proud history of acting on behalf of many organisations and individuals who are active in the field of education. Such clients include independent and maintained schools, universities, further education colleges, education charities and parents.

We recognise that our education clients require a wide range of legal services relating to the operation of organisations, including regulatory issues, constitutional matters, employment, corporate issues, property matters and disputes as well as specifically education-related issues.

Our Education Group is composed of partners and solicitors from various teams within the firm who undertake work for education clients. The Group draws together the expertise that working in this area requires. The Group meets to discuss developments in the education sector and changes in relevant areas of law.

We are happy to discuss with clients how we can be of assistance in providing training to staff involved in many areas of their activities including: trustees, governors, managers and those involved in the commercial operation of the organisation.



We offer advice and assistance to education clients in many areas, including:

- *Regulation of independent schools, including issues of public benefit*
- *Mergers of educational institutions*
- *Charitable regulation, including registration and dealings with the Charity Commission*
- *Creation of or conversion to academy or trust school, including the preparation of constitutional and funding documents*
- *Governance, including appointment and resignation of trustees and governors*
- *Charitable company matters, including preparation of articles of association, advice on directors' duties, company secretarial services*
- *Data protection*
- *Establishment of "spin-off" companies for universities and commercial exploitation of research*
- *Full range of property services, including acquisitions and disposals, advice on property portfolios*
- *Major construction projects, including capital refurbishment projects for campus developments*
- *Preparation and review of contracts with parents and school terms and conditions*
- *Outsourcing of services by educational establishments, such as cleaning and catering services*
- *Contracts for the hiring of premises*
- *Employment matters, including "day to day" advice, as well as employment tribunal proceedings in all areas, such as unfair dismissal claims, race, disability and sex discrimination (including equal pay claims)*
- *Advising on safeguarding of pupils and vulnerable adults*
- *Admission and expulsion of pupils*
- *Pursuing unpaid school fees*
- *Disputes between education providers and suppliers or other third parties*
- *Advice to grant-making bodies in relation to the exercise of their functions*
- *Statutory funding regime for the education of detained young people*
- *Advice to students and parents on aspects of education, including admission appeals and disputes with providers.*

About Hewitsons

We're not your average law firm and we're proud of that fact. With Hewitsons, you enjoy everything you'd expect from a long established practice but with a modern, much friendlier approach. We always work that little bit harder to get to know you, which makes all the difference to the results you get.

Businesses flourish because of their ability to adapt and we're no exception. We have evolved and continue to do so, to ensure that we give you a range of specialist services, across all sectors in one integrated firm. We're professionals but we're people too. Our lawyers will advise you on matters large and small, in simple language you can understand.

Should your legal needs take you outside of the UK, you'll be reassured to learn that as founder members of LawExchange International, we have a global reach that extends throughout Europe, North America, Asia, South America and Australia. Simply giving you all the law you need.



Our approach

All our legal teams take a straightforward and friendly approach to dealing with your matter and their aim is to provide the most effective solution that fits your needs.

Because the final outcome is often far from certain, our specialist teams take time to understand the dynamics of your needs in order that they can give balanced advice.

Through a combination of legal expertise and commercial acumen, we provide a high quality service in a way that suits you best – be this by phone, face to face or online. It is this mixture of skills that allows us to act swiftly and efficiently.

We value the client relationships we have and believe we have achieved this not only by providing value for money, but by adding value to everything we undertake on their behalf.

Our broad experience is shared with our clients through a programme of regular updates and seminars which helps them increase their knowledge in a number of key areas.

Our people

The Hewitsons Education Group team has a wealth of experience, ensuring that whatever levels of experience you require, we are in a position to provide the appropriate level of resource.

You can't have excellent service without excellent people so we go to great lengths to hire the very best. Hewitsons is committed to the training and development of all its people and we regard it as vital to our future. To ensure enhanced delivery of services to our clients we attained Investors in People accreditation in 1998 and have held the standard since that date.

Operating in highly specialised areas of law, our specialist teams are well known for providing the very best advice. In addition to IIP accreditation we also achieved the Law Society's practice management standard Lexcel in May 2007 which provides additional third party endorsement of our achievements.

Our clients

Our clients are as diverse as the work we do. As one of the largest law firms in our regions, our work covers all aspects of corporate commercial and property law, as well as addressing the legal needs of charities, institutions and private individuals.

But in whatever we do for you we personalise our services to suit your needs. It's your kind of law.

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