

# Education

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Leading school and education sector advisers

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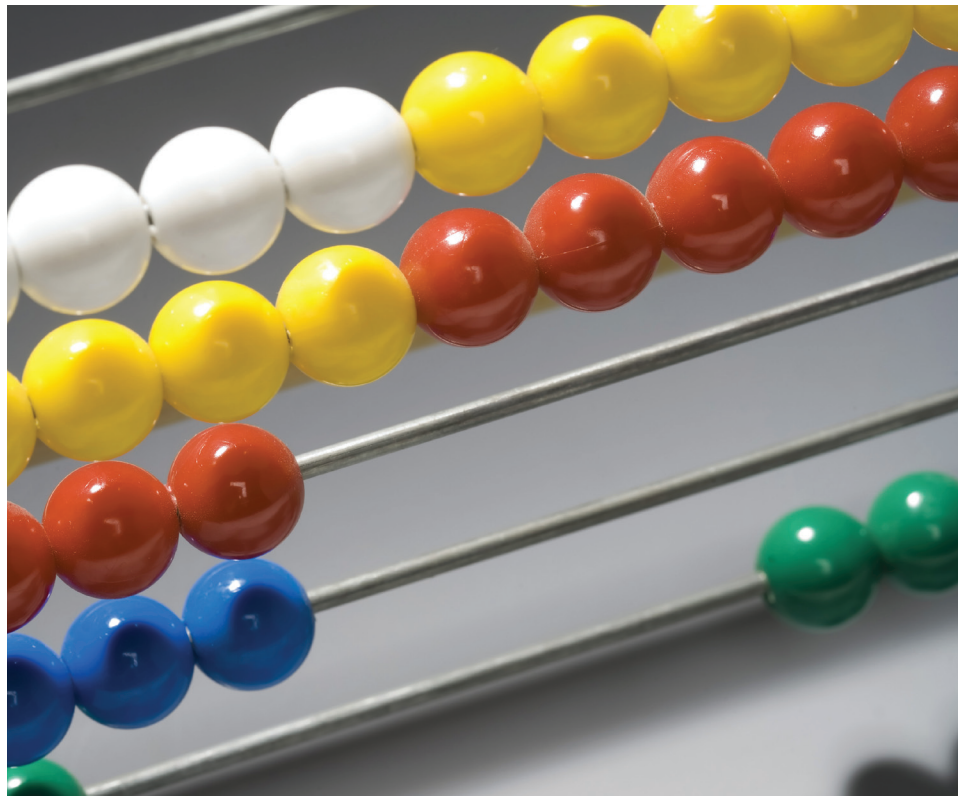
Service beyond expectation

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Specialist services to support your development

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## Helping you meet the challenges



The current challenges – maintaining student numbers, increased competition, finding funding to develop the school, escalating costs and public benefit requirements – mean that the next few years will be a difficult time for schools and educational organisations. Getting the right advice can make the difference between success and failure.

Our experience and capabilities really add significant value to our school and education sector clients.

Kingston Smith will help you meet the financial challenges by delivering a comprehensive range of services specially tailored for schools and the education sector.

# Leading school and education sector advisers

Our services to schools and the education sector have been developed over many years of experience with a wide range of clients.

We provide the range of skills and the services associated with very large firms with personal care and attention that your organisation needs. We believe it is our personal, friendly and dedicated service that sets us apart from others.

Above all, we recognise that every organisation is different, with its own specific needs. We take a collaborative approach, listening and taking the time to understand your own unique circumstances. The wide-ranging skills and experience of our schools and education sector team allow us to create tailor-made and practical solutions to your requirements.

## Service beyond expectation

We want to help you succeed. That's why each school and education sector client, irrespective of size, is allocated a dedicated team immersed in the issues facing you today, headed by an experienced specialist partner.

We take the time to listen to your own unique circumstances and aim to provide you with the practical and innovative solutions you need to meet your objectives.

Because we know the schools and education sector so well, our specialist team can assist you in your decision making process, whether it be as a sounding board on general management issues or dealing with a specific technical query. Whatever your needs, we strive to deliver a service that goes beyond your expectations.

# Specialist services to support your development

We are more than just accountants. By listening to your needs we have built-up a range of specialist services which demonstrate that we go the extra mile to support your development.

### **Audit and business advice**

Our thorough understanding of the schools and education sector regulatory and financial environment ensures that we carry out audits efficiently and effectively. Our expertise provides a high level of assurance to governors and other interested parties as well as identifying opportunities to improve financial management and minimise operational risk.

### **Tax and VAT**

We guide you through the maze of regulation, identifying the most efficient way of limiting your exposure and liability. We can help with VAT, PAYE and tax health checks, VAT planning in respect of building projects and partial exemption calculations, trading structures, dealing with HMRC visits, Gift Aid administration, PAYE advice on the treatment of benefits in kind and payment of peripatetic teachers.

### **Fundraising and strategic advice**

We provide clients with clear, practical advice and solutions across all aspects of fundraising and strategic development. We offer a portfolio of services targeted at increasing funds and income streams ranging from advice on setting up a development office or fundraising team, strategic review of existing fundraising plans, to running capital appeals. Our specialist team has successfully raised substantial sums for schools, colleges and universities. In addition to advice in respect of fundraising we can help you maximize your cashflow in these challenging times through the setting up of advance fee schemes and factoring.

### **HR consultancy and recruitment**

Our HR team and employment lawyers provide a practical approach which delivers positive solutions to all aspects of personnel management. We can assist with HR audits, employee and contracts benefits, employee surveys and pay benchmarking. We can also help with recruitment across a wide range of roles including bursars, finance staff, and governors.

### **IT consultancy and information protection**

Working closely with our clients our team can provide a full range of IT advisory services to help you get the best from the rapidly changing world of technology. Our services include helping you to run your technology economically and effectively, assisting in providing protection for all your stakeholder information and keeping you up to date with relevant rules and regulations.



### **Governance and meeting regulatory requirements**

Effective governance and management functions are essential to any organisation. The education sector is no exception. In an environment where schools and colleges are under constant scrutiny, accountability underpins everything you do. Internal processes and governance are continually under the spotlight.

We can help you to develop best practice in governance ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements and improving management processes to add value to your organisation. Our services include bespoke Governors' training, skills audits, benchmarking performance, Public Benefit requirements and risk management.

We support our school and education sector clients through technical bulletins, newsletters, email alerts on emerging issues, seminars and conferences, all of which are easily accessible through our education website [www.kingstonsmith.co.uk/education](http://www.kingstonsmith.co.uk/education). We get involved with the main sector groups to ensure our clients receive leading edge advice which will add value to their organisations.

**“Kingston Smith’s Education Seminar ‘Raising finance for schools’ on 22 March 2011 could not have been more timely or appropriate in the current climate. A very well structured agenda was supported by excellent speakers who were most informative and thought provoking. This was undoubtedly the best and most useful education seminar I have attended.”**

**Patrick Walker, Director of Business Development  
Queenswood School**

## Academies

Many state schools continue to apply for academy status under the current Government guidelines. If your school is considering this, the change in status is an exciting step forward, giving you greater control over your finances as well as your curriculum.

The responsibilities that come with being an academy mean that it is important to ensure that you appoint financial advisers who understand your financial needs including accounts and audit and can provide additional services to support your development.

As well as a range of services including audit and accountancy, tax and VAT, we are aware that academies need to review their existing HR services. Some schools are still linked to the services provided by their local authority and others have no support as their local authorities no longer offer the service. In addition some academies are already looking at ways to enhance their income streams through fundraising methods. We as leading financial advisors in the education sector can play a pivotal role in your current and future development offering sound financial advice and direct access to key services.

# Contact us

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**More information about Kingston Smith services to the education sector can be found at [www.kingstonsmith.co.uk/education](http://www.kingstonsmith.co.uk/education)**

