



# Academy Conversion

VWV's Academies team is one of the largest teams of specialist educational lawyers in the country.

Our widely acknowledged expertise in academies, coupled with our outstanding commitment to the wider education and charities sector, enable us to deliver a high quality and cost effective service to schools wishing to convert to academy status.

## Are you Thinking of Converting Your School to Academy Status?

At VWV we understand the challenges facing schools converting to academy status. While conversion is a well trodden path for us, we appreciate that it is new to you and that every school has its own individual legal considerations to address.

### Smoothing the Way

We can help. We've been guiding schools through the conversion process since the first sponsor academies in 2003. We have advised on the conversion of every type and category of school from sponsor academies to converter academies, federations, primary and secondary schools, 'all through' academies, grammar schools, PFI schools, faith schools, state boarding schools and special schools.

### Help Where and When You Need it

We understand the pressures on your time - meeting the needs of the DfE, local authority, parents, students and other stakeholders, while running a busy school - so we work to make the process as straightforward as possible. Our experience makes us well placed to advise, guide and reassure you every step of the way and to manage the process for you. We're available to talk whenever you need us, and can provide onsite help with consultations, briefings and training.

## National Leaders

Our work with schools all over the country has been recognised by independent legal directories Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners. They rank us in the top tier nationally for our advice to schools and academies. We also work closely with the Department for Education in the development of their policy and with organisations such as the National Association of School Business Managers.

Our commitment to the sector is also demonstrated through our contributions to journals and a variety of other publications. We are regularly invited to speak at national conferences in recognition of our sector expertise.

## Value for Money

We offer fixed fees ensuring you get the best advice at the best value for your school. For details of our fees and of how we add value to the conversion process, please contact Yvonne Spencer, Chloe Brunton or Con Alexander.



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## Building Relationships and Support for the Future

For many of our clients, conversion is just the start of a relationship with us. We're delighted to continue as trusted advisers to many academies, providing legal advice through our HR and Legal Retainer Scheme. Please see overleaf for further details.

## Our HR & Legal Retainer Scheme

We offer a retainer service which gives you direct access to our academies team for immediate support and assistance with your day to day queries. Benefits of the scheme include:

- a fixed annual fee payable in termly instalments allowing you to budget effectively
- a 24/7 legal helpline, for immediate help on day to day queries, giving you access to expert legal advice when you need it
- discounted fee rates for off-scheme legal services, giving you affordable access to a comprehensive range of legal services such as HR and consultancy services and appeal panels
- a free legal health check of pupil policies, which ensures you are up to date with legislation
- 25% discount on VWV training events tailored to your needs
- a designated client relationship manager, who will take the time to understand your requirements and ensure you receive the help and support you need

## Our Team

We are a full service commercial firm, which means we can advise you on any issue you face, including contracts and procurement, HR and employment, property, pupil issues, governance and trading.

If you would like further information in relation to any of these areas, please contact Yvonne Spencer on 0117 314 5202 or at [yspencer@vww.co.uk](mailto:yspencer@vww.co.uk).

## Free consultation

**If you have any questions about the academy conversion process, or about the way we work, please get in touch. We offer a free consultation service for schools considering becoming academies. For more information, please call Yvonne Spencer, Chloe Brunton or Con Alexander.**

## What Others Say...

*"Veale Wasbrough Vizards is a 'leading light' in the sector and has acted on many high profile academy conversions".*

### Legal 500

*"I know it is an understatement but thank you for all your support and advice on the conversion to become an academy. I am sure Mike will thank you directly on behalf of the school but I cannot thank you and the team at VWV enough for all your hard work, professionalism, and patience. It has been a pleasure to work with you and please pass on our sincere thanks."*

### Keswick School

*"The Governors and SLT at Cams Hill would like to thank all the staff at VWV for your professional help and guidance during our conversion to Academy Status. We are very happy that we chose VWV and look forward to continuing to work with you in the future."*

### Matthew Newberry, Director of Specialism, Cams Hill School

*"Thank you for the excellent support which we have received throughout the conversion process. I am very pleased that everything could come together by the target date, ready for the new school year."*

### Christina Haddrell, Headteacher