

SETTING UP A NEW SCHOOL

“... to create a new generation of independent state schools ...”

Michael Gove Secretary of State for Education



The structure required to deliver these new schools will require experienced professional advice. Setting up a School is a complex process, and needs careful consideration. Lee Bolton Monier Williams' Education team are well placed to anticipate the issues and to come up with solutions.

LBMW has won national recognition for its outstanding strategic and hands-on legal advice to hundreds of educational establishments. For many, we have become not just a prized legal resource, but a key part of a school's organisational team, we provide a comprehensive service, including:

- A single point of contact for all professional advice and day to day support for the prospective providers.
- A legal team used to providing both general and detailed legal advice for upwards of 6,000 maintained schools, independent schools, the Church of England nationally, the Church in Wales, other faith providers and other providers of varied backgrounds.
- Lawyers deeply enmeshed in the discussions around all new legislation since the 1996 Education Act, who have advised on new schools or major school developments in the last years with a wide range of providers.
- A set of BSF pro-forma documentation specifically developed for the Voluntary Aided, Foundation and Academy sectors and agreed with Partnerships for Schools.
- Specialists who can advise and handle:
 - ◆ School competition procedures
 - ◆ The merits of the various categories of schools and academies
 - ◆ Education law and Charity law in respect of Foundation and Voluntary schools and academies
 - ◆ All land issues and transfers
 - ◆ Admissions, governance, trusteeship
 - ◆ Employment
 - ◆ Curriculum flexibilities and creative educational approaches
 - ◆ Changes of school category



‘Lee Bolton Monier-Williams’ education practice is linked to its ecclesiastical and charities practice, the firm acts for numerous diocesan boards of education, independent schools and Academies.’

The Legal 500

- ◆ The legal relationships and relative powers and responsibilities between governing body, provider, LA and the Department
 - ◆ Ongoing advice and support through our permanent legal advice scheme.
 - ◆ Commercial & contractual issues on sourcing key services for new ventures.
- Associated specialists as required.
 - Project support from some of the most experienced managers of school development projects in the country
 - The skills and experience to enable you to lead your project in the directions you wish.
 - ◆ Land acquisition
 - ◆ Building acquisition, construction contracts.
 - ◆ Funding Arrangements
 - ◆ Lease agreements
 - ◆ Employment /TUPE
 - ◆ Service contracts
 - ◆ Trustee liabilities
 - ◆ Charitable status
 - ◆ Corporate or other structure
 - ◆ Computer & IT facilities
 - ◆ Intellectual Property Rights

We adopt a commercial and pragmatic approach. Our work for the National Society and our proximity to them and the Department for Education gives us a unique advantage over competitors, saving sponsors and project managers time and money.

We have been comprehensively involved in numerous Academy projects from their inception. As a firm, we advised the Church of England's National Society (which promotes religious education through CofE maintained schools in the UK) through-out its discussions with the Department in establishing a framework for promoting CofE Academies.

We have been acting as project advisers in numerous Academy projects, both those with and those without a religious character. Our involvement in these projects stems from the early days when Academy Trusts took responsibility for the procurement of new buildings and facilities. Some of the changes the Department has made to its Academies policy model respond to our consultations. This reflects the firm's wider involvement in education law and provision – for example the input this firm had in drafting model documentation for Voluntary Aided schools participating in the BSF Programme. We have regularly engaged with the Department on behalf of sponsors in suggesting changes to model documentation where this has been considered necessary. This reinforces our proactive approach and in-depth knowledge of the education world.

Our partner-led philosophy ensures all activity is carried out to the highest standards and in a manner that supports a school's given ethos or aim. Working so closely with an organisation, providing advice as and when it is needed, is crucial for maintaining not only a gold-star level of service but continuity, reassurance and confidence.

'Lee Bolton Monier-Williams provide sensible, no-nonsense advice. We have worked with them since 1973 and have always found them to be professional, hard working and reliable.'

***David Bilton,
Chairman Woodard Schools***

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