



Photo: www.wigmoreschool.org.uk

Helping to reduce costs whilst maintaining efficiency

Background

Wigmore School Academy Trust comprises a high school and primary school. In addition, the Trust runs a 16 place nursery that operates from a classroom within the primary school. This allows for a smooth transition throughout each stage of the children's education, from ages 3-16, and means that staff get to know every pupil extremely well.

Over 450 children attend the high school and 180 are on the primary school roll. Based in a very rural location, some ten miles north of Leominster, Herefordshire, and close to the border with Shropshire, the school covers a large catchment area from a wide variety of economic backgrounds.

The most recent Ofsted inspection of the high school returned an 'Outstanding' result and in last year's (2015) exams, around 80% of those entering gained five grades A*-C, including maths and English. In 2015, the primary school was Ofsted rated 'good' in all aspects.

For the past 18 months, the school has been headed by Dean Curtis. Together with his team of dedicated and committed teachers and support staff, Dean works hard to

achieve the school's mission: 'Enjoying learning together' and its main aim: 'To ensure that our children are happy, healthy and successful'.

Relationship with Hoople

Alison MacArthur is Business Manager at the school and for many years has accessed a number of Hoople's services. These include HR advice, payroll, SIMS (Schools Information Management System) and DBS checks.

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Alison's role as Business Manager means that she has responsibility for many aspects of the day to day running of the school. As an academy, the school operates much like a business so she must deal with a diverse range of issues, from HR through to health and safety and finance. She cannot expect to be an expert in all these areas but by accessing Hoople's services, she can rely on others to be



up-to-date with all the latest facts, figures and legislation. Through its HR and Payroll Service Level Agreements, the school has benefited from advice on issues such as staff maternity leave and pension entitlements as well as help with HR policies and procedures. In addition, Alison has attended a number of valuable HR training sessions led by Hoople's experienced and knowledgeable team.

Alison is especially complimentary about the flexibility Hoople has shown when dealing with the particular needs of the school. For example, the SIMS system used by the

primary school has been tailored to their requirements and work undertaken by Hoople's IT team to develop more self-service functions and introduce electronic payslips has helped to reduce costs whilst maintaining efficiency.

The school also accesses Hoople's DBS checking service. By introducing a bulk buying service at the beginning of the last academic year, Hoople has enabled schools and academies to reduce the cost of obtaining these essential checks, whilst providing a streamlined and efficient service that is central to schools' safeguarding policies.

Testimonials

Alison says: "Hoople staff are really good. They're incredibly supportive, objective and respond quickly to any queries. I have so much confidence in the people I work with at Hoople. They have a wealth of knowledge and are experts in their subject areas. I always feel secure that what they're saying is right. I would definitely recommend them in terms of the services we buy."

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