



WHAT OUR CLIENTS SAY



Amersham School is a mixed secondary school in Buckinghamshire with 850 pupils aged 11 to 18.

The school, which performs well above national averages, was designated as a specialist in Business & Enterprise by the Department for Education and Skills in 2005 and became an academy in 2011.

Having made such a significant decision on the future of the school, and with a vision that incorporates a philosophy of innovation

underpinned by traditional values, the school management sought a partner to provide the secure foundations for continuous improvement.

Jane Elkins, Director of Finance, says: "On conversion to an Academy we were especially keen to ensure that we had strong legal advice on all HR matters and so we felt that we needed to have advisers who could offer more than the traditional Local Authority HR adviser."

The school had already established a plan to review all staff related policies in Year 1 of becoming an academy to ensure that these were robust and up to date.

The school met a number of potential providers and, as Jane says: "We settled on Ellis Whittam as we felt there was a synergy with the school and we particularly liked the fact we got a named, personal Adviser with experience of supporting schools."

Like all of EW's school clients, Amersham now has the benefit of a single point of contact for all their employment law and HR challenges, with the backup of a large and experienced Education Team.

At the same time, Amersham also signed up for EW's Health & Safety service and now benefits from a named local consultant and the backup of 24/7 support from head office. EW has a unique approach to

assessing a school's requirements and supporting the implementation of continuous improvement. Indeed, EW has such faith in the quality of their service that they act as the client's Competent Person.

Jane concludes: "We have found them to be very responsive and, most importantly, everything is explained in layman's terms!"

"This has enabled us to ensure our policies are up to date and our procedures are suited to our needs and following best practice, rather than imposed by the LA."

*Jane Elkins,
Director of Finance*



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