

“Opening children’s eyes to the wonderful world of possibility”

Chief Finance Officer

Application Pack



Location: Chester City Centre

We are looking for a key member of our management team dedicated to helping deliver the educational outcomes our children deserve.

Are you someone who:

Understands the importance of financial compliance?

Appreciates the key relationship between sound financial management and school improvement?

Knows how to empower Headteachers to achieve true value for money?

If so, we want to hear from you!

Role: Up to three days per week

Salary: Based on experience



Overview

NWAT operates 10 schools across Cheshire and Shropshire - one secondary and nine primaries.

Schools are responsible for setting and managing their own budgets. Account transactions are processed locally.

NWAT provides financial support and assistance to ensure each school adheres to its budget and manages its financial position in a sustainable way, in accordance with The Academies Accounting Handbook.

All schools use a bespoke accounting package and a payroll bureau.





Chief Finance Officer Responsibilities:

Leadership and management

- Deliver a robust accounting and financial management system in compliance with all recognised accounting and charity standards and the Academies Accounting Handbook
- Work alongside and oversee two NWAT finance staff while influencing, encouraging and stimulating optimum performance across the whole organisation
- Provide strategic recommendations and support to the CEO.
- Strive to improve quality, efficiency, productivity and innovation

Strategic financial support

- Provide comprehensive financial management and strategy for the short and long terms
- Coordinate an annual three year budget process to promote efficiency and secure the delivery of Trust objectives
- Use financial data to identify financial risks and rewards in order to challenge and contribute to decision-making
- Establish and develop relationships with Headteachers and Trustees and provide them with strategic financial support

This is an exciting time to join the team at North West Academies Trust!

Apply: cbooth@nwatrust.co.uk

Qualifications : Knowledge Skills : Experience : Attributes

We want an enthusiastic, committed, hard-working qualified accountant (ACA, ACCA, CIWe MA or CIPFA) to join our team. Previous experience of working in a busy office environment is highly desirable

The successful candidate will have:

- A record of achievement over several years at senior level in financial management, preferably with strong charity/education and commercial experience.
- Sound experience of group accounting and working in complex, disperse organisations.
- Strong knowledge of strategic financial planning.
- Experience of managing change and of the development and implementation of systems, policies and procedures.
- Experience of using a range of accounting software and other IT packages.
- Advanced user of Microsoft Excel.
- Track record of managing numerous work streams and delivering deadlines.

Personal Characteristics

The type of person we are looking for:

- A proactive initiative taker with a hands-on approach.
- A highly numerate, analytical and strategic thinker.
- Resilient and able to work under pressure.
- Someone who can deliver excellent attention to detail and accuracy.
- A person who has the ability to prioritise effectively and meet strict deadlines.
- An excellent team player who demonstrates flexibility within the work environment.
- Someone who naturally relates to Trustees, Managers and other personnel at all levels in the organisation
- A person with excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Someone with the ability to offer creative solutions to problems.
- A person who can inspire the people around them.



North West Academies Trust

NWAT believes an aspirational and inspirational education is the right of every child.

Our success is driven by a commitment to improve standards and outcomes for all pupils.

As specialists in high-quality education, we are passionate about supporting schools within their communities and helping ensure outstanding learning opportunities for every child.

The schools in our Trust provide excellent teaching and strong leadership in a creative, supportive and aspirational environment.

We have the necessary experience of driving up standards in education in order to provide a learning environment in which all children and young adults can achieve their full potential.

We are an organisation built on strong foundations, enabling us to expand and welcome new schools with ease while still retaining focus on our core commitment to excellence in education.

We have the experience, ambition and aspiration to bring about excellence and inspire children to succeed.

Whatever the challenges are, our goal remains the same: to provide children with opportunities to aspire and succeed, and open their eyes to the wonderful world of possibility.

We offer you..

- The support you need to do an excellent and rewarding job, working with schools where every child truly matters.
- A chance to develop professionally as part of a fabulous team committed to continuous school growth and ensuring the best possible outcomes for children.



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