



 rollits  
...more than a law firm

Education

## Sector specialism

# Education

### Sector overview

The education sector is managing significant challenges and opportunities as the market continues to evolve rapidly in response to competition and the country's economic circumstances.

Schools have seen a huge shake-up, with an increasing number being awarded academy status, giving them greater autonomy and control over budgets. It is likely that we will see an increasing cluster of these academies coming together to create branded federations and to partner with education providers further up the age range. The Academies Act 2010 has also paved the way for the coalition government's 'free schools' model, which will allow parents and other groups to open schools as not-for-profit limited companies, whilst studio schools offer further opportunities for targeted provision.

The further and higher education sectors have become fiercely competitive with the liberalisation of degree-awarding powers moving higher up the agenda than ever before.

The larger FE colleges have been on the merger and acquisition trail and have become powerful organisations with strong brands and an international presence, with all colleges considering how best they can manage their estates, control costs and work more closely in collaboration with each other and the private sector.

Many universities, in response to the gaps created by funding cuts, are focusing on creating wealth through their research capabilities. Research and innovation are the hallmark of these organisations as they strive to thrive in a tough economic environment.

### Our sector experience

The lawyers at Rollits, through their long-standing involvement in the sector, are well versed in all of the educational issues and opportunities requiring legal expertise.

We work for some of the most ambitious and innovative institutions in the country, including major colleges in the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire region that are recognised nationally and internationally for their best practice and influence on the sector. Our clients include leading universities and independent schools, as well as state schools, sixth-form colleges, academies, student unions, nurseries and local authorities. We work to develop a deep understanding of how each client's team operates and share both best practice and lessons learned from across the sector.

Rollits is proud to have been involved in an acquisition for a 157 Group college that was held up as a model of best practice by the Department of Education and through our highly-regarded charity law specialists we are able to give sound advice in relation to constitutional and governance issues.

### Why use Rollits?

At Rollits we make good on our promise of being 'more than a law firm'. We assist our clients' endeavours to inspire students through hands-on involvement in their initiatives. Our partner-led approach is key because we know that our clients want to deal on a daily basis with lawyers who know the education sector inside out.



## Our services

Rollits works with education clients with the full range of sector-specific issues, including:

### Governance, Powers and Constitutional Issues

The impact of Charity Law on exempt charities

Creation of Academies

Advice on Public Benefit  
(particularly for independent schools)

Banking and Finance

Contractual and commercial issues including drafting, negotiating and reviewing contracts from simple letter agreements to complex multi-partner arrangements and publicly funded contracts

Outsourcing, managed and shared service arrangements

Contractual disputes with suppliers and partner providers

Estate and campus development

Employment/HR including discrimination and TUPE

Pensions including LGPS and TPS

We also help our education clients with a wider spectrum of issues that typically affect them operating in a competitive environment including:

Mergers and Acquisitions

IT contracts including turnkey arrangements and systems migration

Data protection, Data Security and Confidentiality

Freedom of Information

Intellectual Property issues, including copyright in course materials and protection and exploitation of branding

Mediation

Leases

Property Disputes

Safeguarding

Health and Safety, including Compliance Advice and dealing with incidents

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A list of members' names is available for inspection at our registered office. We use the term 'partner' to denote members of Rollits LLP.

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