



## Sandra Lightwing is the Finance Manager at White Hills Park Trust

When we started to map out the expansion of the trust, we knew we needed great software that we could easily roll out to the schools. But we also knew that functionality alone wasn't enough, we needed great support too. For us, the priority was a user-friendly, intuitive platform that would be backed by a partnership to give us the confidence that our trust can grow the way we want it to.

### Access Education Budgets

We first introduced Access Education Budgets in 2014 and we use it a lot within the trust. From budget scenario modelling to income and expenditure reports providing a 5-year strategic view, the system gives us everything we need to run our trust on a day-to-day basis while also planning for the future.

Any finance manager will know that payroll is the area you definitely don't want to get wrong. The Payroll Reconciliation reports in the Access Education software are awesome. We use them every month to ensure our staff always receive the amount they are expecting. Being able to easily drop all the necessary figures into the report allows us to flag and address any issues before the payment run. Access Education Budgets has helped us to identify things that would've otherwise gone unnoticed. Recognising the variants that could've had a negative impact on the employee has given us the confidence that we won't find any issues further down the line.

The salary calculator is also a great tool that allows us to do immediate comparisons. When a headteacher asks about costs, I can quickly and easily do a comparison, export it and send it over in a pdf, giving them all the information they need within a single document.

The ability to continue being operationally effective remotely (in no small part to the software) has been a huge benefit throughout 2020. And the ability to attach documents made for an effective remote audit.

**Sandra Lightwing** is the **Finance Manager at White Hills Park Trust**, a three school MAT in the East Midlands covering both primary and secondary education.

The trust is founded on the principle that by working together within the locality, their schools become beacons of outstanding practice and provide opportunities and benefits for pupils and the local community.



With growth a priority for White Hills Park Trust, ensuring we had the right technology partner who was “in it with us” was at the top of our agenda and that’s exactly what we see in Access.

**Sandra Lightwing**





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Cloud-based software was (and still is) very important to our expansion plans. It removes a layer of unnecessary worry about who is accessing servers and when. I have found great comfort in knowing that as long as I have an internet connection, I have full access to the software regardless of where I am physically based. A key driver in our decision to choose Access Education Finance was not only knowing I could access the system whenever and wherever, but knowing I had a team of experts behind me and supporting me at every step. For that reason, I have no doubt that it was the right choice.



#### **About Access Education:**

For over a decade, schools, academies, multi-academy trusts and local authorities have benefited from our extensive knowledge and understanding of the sector. The Access Education software suite provides efficiency and engagement across your whole educational establishment. From finance and curriculum-based planning, through to HR, payroll, recruitment and screening, hosting and facilities management, all your school's software is brought together in one place on Access Workspace. And if you need any help, our team of Education experts are on hand to provide tailored support and training during implementation and beyond.

Over 9,000 schools and academies across England and Wales – that's one in three – choose Access Education to transform the way they work, giving them the freedom to provide outstanding education.



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