

With over 700 employees, **Minerva Learning Trust** aims to provide the best educational experience to all their pupils, allowing them to develop and achieve their potential.

Minerva Learning Trust is an ambitious Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) serving four schools across Sheffield. It was established as a Single Academy Trust in 2014 and rapidly expanded between 2017 and 2018 taking on three additional secondary schools.

It was recognised that key operating functions such as Finance, Budgets and Curriculum were being handled separately across the schools. This was neither practical nor efficient to future proof an ever-expanding trust.

Manual processes to maintain the various systems by the different teams wasn't conducive to the trust's operation. This meant that key stakeholders were hindered, delayed and unable to make strategic decisions as they didn't have access to the necessary information when they needed it.

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What I have found with Access is how easy everything is, from the sales team to the help desk – everyone is really easy to talk to and willing to help. I like the development portal which I feel has really allowed Access to grasp how I see their software now and in the future. That makes me feel really valued as a customer.

Adele France, Chief Financial & Operations Officer

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Access software has allowed Minerva Learning Trust to concentrate on what they know best – providing the best education for their pupils.

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The best thing about Access software is that it's really affordable for schools. We are able to have specialist software that is sector specific and meets the need of the trust and schools, within our extremely tight budgets.

Adele France, Chief Financial & Operations Officer

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Challenge

- Required a user-friendly solution that could unify all the existing systems across the schools in the MAT
- Streamline operating procedures and processes
- Wanted greater reporting for management accounts within the trust

Approach

Implemented Access Education Finance, Budgets and Curriculum

Results

- Reduction in manual finance tasks
- Increased efficiencies and help to control costs
- Accurate long-term planning

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Why the Access Education suite?

Adele has worked with Access Education Budgets for many years throughout her career and found the system easy to use and intuitive. She knew that the software could meet all the Minerva Learning Trust's current and future needs.

With this knowledge, Adele and the wider business team implemented Access Education's Finance, Budgets and Curriculum software and improvements were apparent straight away. Efficiency gains were achieved immediately as duplicated processes across separate schools were eliminated. Increased efficiencies provided greater control across the trust, helping to improve accuracy and reliability to support the executive team and trustees in their decision making.

Freeing the Trust to do more

One of the biggest and best results that Adele has seen since implementing Access Education software is that it has allowed the trust to tighten their processes and streamline how they work. They have been able to standardise their workflows – with help from the Access training and user manuals – and Adele's team have been able to develop and enhance the organisational Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).

Interlinking systems and easy to use dashboards enabled Adele to give wider access to key staff such as the executive team, head teachers and budget holders with users able to drill down to analyse more detailed information.

All of this has resulted in better reporting, giving the executive team greater confidence that strategic decisions are supported by tangible evidence that can then easily be presented to the trustees.

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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