


Internal Audit Services for MATs and SATs



Helping you prosper



**From our Manchester
office, we work with 60
schools across Greater
Manchester and the
surrounding counties.**

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About UHY Hacker Young

- UHY Hacker Young in Manchester is a member of the UHY Hacker Young Group, a Top 20* UK network of chartered accountants with 24 offices spanning England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Our 96 partners and 720 professional staff are ambitious people, united in a mission to be exceptional accountants and business advisers delivering seamlessly integrated client service.
- We provide a wide range of accounting, tax and business advisory services, as well as established specialisms in capital markets, litigation support, corporate finance, turnaround and recovery, VAT planning, interim and project management and financial services.
- As a founder member of the UHY International network, we are also able to support global interests by providing local and national expertise internationally.
- Our service philosophy is based on the principle of 'helping you prosper', and this applies across all that we do, not only for our clients but also for our people.

What does Helping you prosper mean?

- Our teams are trained and developed around this core ethos. Everybody working at UHY understands that, in order to help our clients prosper, we need to take a solutions-focused approach throughout our client engagements.
- Our clients tell us that what makes us truly stand out is the enthusiasm and the passion of our people. We like to see ourselves as an ambitious group of people who are open-minded and who seek means of achieving continual development and improvement. Our people are trained to deal with and embrace change, and are encouraged to challenge and promote it where they see perceived benefit.
- With the world of business continually evolving and as the traditional and digital worlds meet, we combine our proud history with an uncompromising focus on the future, in order to achieve the thing that we do best: Helping you prosper

720
professional
staff

24
offices

Top 20
network



17th largest
global
network

96
partners



Our credentials

- Nationally, we are one of the leading advisers to schools and are currently working with more than 430 academies, free and independent schools across the UK.
- In particular, our Manchester office works with 107 schools across Greater Manchester and the surrounding counties.
- Our academy clients include Shaw Education Trust, Concordia Multi Academy Trust, Southport Learning Trust, University of Liverpool Maths School, St James and Emmanuel Academy Trust, Vision Multi Academy Trust, The Rowan Learning Trust, plus a number of other MATs, SATs and special educational needs schools.
- We work with a variety of school clients, from newly opened free schools and single academies to well-established and growing multi-academy trusts.

A selection of UHY relevant clients



Internal audit services

The ESFA require that every Academy Trust must have sound internal controls, risk management and assurances processes. At UHY, we are committed to providing appropriate internal audit services working alongside your Accounting Officer as strategic partners to ensure compliance with the Academies Trust Handbook. In addition, we strive to add value by providing constructive and practical recommendations to contribute to the development of an effective governance and accountability framework.

Here are just some of the areas we can provide assurance on:

Procurement	Income	Payroll	HR
Governance & Academy Handbook compliance	Monthly close down	Fraud, Theft & Bribery	Data & information security
Fixed Asset & capital accounting	Budget control and Management information	Risk Management	Senior executive remuneration
Key financial controls	Trustee/governor induction	Monthly close down procedures	



Added value services

Provided as part of our service provision

Newsletters

We produce regular free newsletters and updates on changes in legislation before they come into play, all in plain English, no jargon. See our Academy Blog channel - www.uhy-uk.com/sectors/academy-schools/academy-schools-blog.

Benchmarking report

Annually we produce a national benchmarking report that compares the accounts of academies across the UK, highlighting patterns, trends and year-on-year developments. As an additional service, we can benchmark your school's data against our findings, highlighting any key issues, opportunities and areas for improvement. We will agree on a suitable time in the year for this work to be done.



Other ways we can add value

These additional services will be quoted separately.

In addition to the specific services that you have requested, we can also offer the following support:

VAT

Academies use a particular VAT refund scheme similar to the LA system (Form 126) or can register for VAT. We have a separate VAT team who can advise you on specific VAT queries or circumstances and carry out a VAT review to ensure you are reclaiming VAT correctly.

Financial due diligence

If you are considering new schools to join the Trust, we can undertake a financial due diligence exercise to assess the school's financial position. We will review all key financial areas, exploring issues that we know can create potential future pitfalls.

Governance and trustees training

Trustees are required to have oversight of the trust's governance, regularity, propriety and compliance. These responsibilities are onerous and require a proper understanding of the requirements. Therefore, it is crucial that you put in place appropriate governance structures, policies and procedures to ensure compliance. We can provide trustee training to explain your responsibilities, possible pitfalls and areas to focus on.



Our experienced and committed team



Stephen Grayson

Client relationship partner

+44 (0) 7825 365220

s.grayson@uhy-manchester.com

Stephen will be your client relationship partner and will support Jenna, providing day to day support and attending all meetings as required.

- Stephen is the Academies lead partner within our Manchester office with the overall responsibility for our service provision to all Trust. He ensures our audit teams provide consistent, high levels of service and quality and a smooth and pain-free internal audit for your team.
- Stephen joined UHY in early 2017 and has over 20 years experience in the accountancy profession.
- Stephen's specialisms include academy schools and educational establishments, and his strong technical knowledge includes IFRS and UK GAAP, as well as advising his academy clients on the implementation of robust controls and procedures.
- In addition to Stephen being an active member of UHY's National Academy Working Group, Stephen is also a Foundation Governor at his local primary school in Wigan.



Jenna Murphy

Audit Manager

+44 (0) 161 236 6936

j.murphy@uhy-manchester.com

Jenna will be the manager who will provide day to day support and attends all meetings as required.

- Jenna will manage the internal audit process and will be an integral part of the team.
- Jenna has 14 years experience in the accountancy profession and qualified as a certified chartered accountant in 2014. She has been involved with internal audit on academies since 2014 and works closely with the finance staff, ensuring that our services are delivered on time. She has been involved with internal audit on academies since late 2014 and works closely with the business managers, ensuring that our services are delivered on time.
- Jenna has experience working with a range of schools, from SAT's to MAT's with up to 25 schools.
- Jenna is also is a member of the ESFA's auditors forum and the UHY National Academy Working Group.



Support from the wider academies team

The academies team in Manchester consists of 60 staff, ranging from trainees through to supervisors, managers, directors and partners.

All of the team are trained internally on an annual basis to ensure they are up-to-date with the latest developments in the sector and with the ever-changing Academies Financial Handbook.

We recognise that a lack of staff continuity is difficult for you and your team. We operate a staff resource planner which looks ahead six months in detail at any one time and allows us to plan internal audit assignments with a high level of certainty.

Ensuring quality

We have detailed policies and procedures for the conduct of engagement quality control annual reviews ('hot reviews') on public interest audit assignments.

At least one audit of every audit partner is 'cold reviewed' as part of an internal monitoring process each year.

What our clients say

“UHY provide us with service of excellent quality, supported by their good technical understanding of our sector requirements. The UHY team have helped us to focus on business issues and have highlighted areas of our work that needed improvement as well as those that we found to work well. It has been of real benefit to have a consistent team who are all willing to really understand how we work and who we are, which has resulted in an excellent working relationship with them.”

Rita Righini



“The governors noted that the reports received from UHY were forensic in nature and clear. The Business Support team found the visits, whilst thorough were professional, supportive and enjoyable. The software used by UHY to gather information enabled the whole process to be completed effectively and efficiently.”

Paul Magee



“UHY provide prompt, regular and appropriate service both in relation to the financial matters but also in relation to Governors’ and Trustees’ issues and responsibilities and queries. Their advice and comments are always most professional and relevant. It was obvious that individual members of the team each had particular skills and strengths according to their role and area of responsibility, which helped us to have confidence in their work. The UHY team showed expertise in the understanding and examination of finance papers and in the preparation and presentation of the Accounts which were explained with clarity.”

Marjorie Bell





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