ACE Schools MAT was formed in June 2016. We are a sponsor of two academies, ACE Schools Plymouth an Alternative Provision Academy and Courtlands Special School. We have a wide range of alternative and specialist education provisions and services to support schools and families.

Our Trustees oversee everything the trust does and are supported by Local Governors for individual schools.

Our Executive team of Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Performance and Director of School Improvement work closely with all areas of the education in the schools but also have the ambition to provide our model of delivery and bring our values to pupils across more areas of the country where the most vulnerable children do not yet have the same opportunities as those in Plymouth.

We stand for excellence in education, uncompromising professionalism, and solution focused support, with our pupils at the heart of everything we do.

WE NEVER GIVE UP.
We have several bases and services which are located in and around the historic naval town of Plymouth and the counties of Cornwall and Devon. We provide full time education and support for up to 320 pupils at any one time and over 500 per year. Our students are mixed, aged from 4 to 19, and no longer engaged in mainstream schools. Referrals can be made by the local authorities, medical consultants or mainstream schools.

Pupils could be those who are either awaiting a school place having moved into the city, waiting for specialist placement, in need of additional or bespoke provision for medical or social emotional reasons, respite from mainstream school for a short period or perhaps have been excluded from mainstream school.

We have an inclusive philosophy and believe passionately in giving every learner in the service the opportunity to succeed. We are very proud of our young people’s achievements. In our Ofsted inspection (2013), the visiting inspectors were especially impressed with our pupils’ behaviour, progress and attainment. Our staff have been praised for the care they take in looking after our pupils and in the planning for good and outstanding lessons.

Please do not hesitate to contact us to find out more.

Sarah Gillett,
Head Teacher and CEO
Bretonside is the main secondary teaching base for pupils aged 11 to 16 who have been excluded from school or who are at risk of exclusion. Some pupils are placed with us via the Local Authority and others by referral from their main school. By the end of May each year over 130 pupils will be attached to Bretonside base.

Pupils follow a secondary style curriculum of separate lessons, with a strong emphasis on English and Maths. All pupils have opportunities to be involved in alternative curriculum activities, ranging from all day Learning Outside the Classroom to vocational work based training.

Every pupil has a place in a mixed age tutor group led by their personal tutor as well as mentor support for their age and stage related learning and pastoral needs. Pupils have a rich diet of learning based on the skills needed to succeed in the next steps of their life either on return to mainstream school or post 16 destinations and the world of work.

We offer qualifications in English, Maths, Science, Computing, Technology, PE, PHSE, Humanities and Character building. Many pupils also use other providers to take part in wider learning including Vocational subjects, Art, Design and Media and work based learning such as Construction Skills and Land Based Studies.

There are three year 11 classes, three year 10 classes and three combined Key Stage 3 classes.

STEP (Secondary Thematic Education Programme) is designed to engage the most disengaged young people with complex social and domestic circumstances. It is run on a personalised thematic education model in the core curriculum subjects, linked to a Learning Outside the Classroom activity based day.

The key focus has been to improve attendance and academic progress but most of all the social and emotional wellbeing of the pupils. The group uses William Sutton Hall in St Budeaux as a teaching base but use the resources of Plymouth, Cornwall and Devon areas every day. There is a high level of joint working with the Youth Service, Children in Care teams and Youth Offending Service.

All pupils are given access to the Careers South West (CSW) so that they can make informed independent choices for the future but also start to build the necessary aspiration to see that they must make best use of all learning opportunities.

There is one group of up to 6 pupils.
ACE Secondary:
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

APPROVED ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROVIDERS

Many Key Stage 4 pupils have the opportunity to learn in a work based environment with specialist vocational centres. This provides the chance to learn in a different style and be engaged and excited by future prospects of post 16 training and work.

Pupils involved with vocational placements will get supplementary core subject teaching and may also attend ACE Bretonside or another base for part of the week to ensure they have full time provision.

Over 12 providers have been used in the past two years offering a range of more than 30 different courses. This diversity of offer and personalised choice gives pupils the chance to carry out learning which is unavailable in the general education system.

Many pupils continue with the provider into post 16 study and work based learning.

ACE provides a peripatetic teacher who ensures that individual English, Maths and Science learning takes place and additional qualification currency is gained by all these pupils.

ACE Secondary:
ACE SEYMOUR HOUSE

Seymour House is run by the Hamoaze House charity as a young people’s service for those affected by drugs and alcohol. ACE are working jointly with the youth workers from the Hamoaze team to provide an education based on the best of the youth work talking ‘therapy’ work and a thematic learning programme based on English and Maths skills.

Pupils will be referred to ACE Seymour from secondary schools or referrals will be made for pupils already receiving education from ACE. Most pupils will receive a number of half day sessions at Seymour House with either the main school providing the other education or ACE providing other education to make it full time via our LOTC and thematic learning programme.

The aim is for all pupils to re-engage in education and learning. This maybe by providing individual support for attendance, emotional support or specific targeted youth support for the family.

Education opportunities draw on all the different aspects of ACE Schools’ work including work experience, vocational placements, exam level qualifications, and supported transition back into their school.

Over 30 pupils can access this service and throughout the year many more will come and go successfully back to mainstream school.

IN NOVEMBER 2013 ACE WAS RATED AS GOOD IN ALL AREAS BY OFSTED
ACE Primary: ACE FORD
Ford Centre,
Auckland Road Ford,
Plymouth PL2 3BX
01752 569380

Ford is the ACE Primary teaching base. The pupils are referred from the Local Authority or direct from Plymouth Primary Schools. The pupils are excluded or at risk of exclusion so all display challenging behaviours. Children are taught in a personalised thematic curriculum designed to re-engage them into education. Our programme is heavily centred on Emotional Logic and enabling a pupil to be able to control their behaviour. Pupils have a high level of support.

The aim is that the pupil can return to education with better personal skills and strategies to support them. There is a strong emphasis on assessment of the whole child and sharing this both formally for SEND assessment but also with family and home school use.

The package each pupil receives is designed to support them and their family to stabilise and be better equipped to regulate behaviour and engage in academic learning. The aim is for pupils to move back into a long term education setting as quickly as possible so they can build a new bond with that community.

Total number at any one time is 10. The aim is to have a quick turn around with pupils moving on to long term placements and our support being available to new pupils.

ACE Health and Welfare: DOVER ROAD

The latest Government statutory guidance supporting pupils at school with medical conditions (Sept 2014); ACE Health and Welfare is commissioned by the Education Funding Agency to provide the ‘Alternative provision arranged by the Local Authority’ (S.19 Education Act).

Dover Road is the main teaching base for secondary aged pupils with health and welfare referrals to ACE. Pupils could be too ill to attend mainstream school due to both physical and mental ill-health. Some pupils demonstrate other behaviours such as long term refusal to attend school on emotional grounds or an autistic spectrum diagnosis.

Pupils follow a secondary style curriculum of separate lessons, with a strong emphasis on English, Maths and Science. All pupils have opportunities to be involved in alternative curriculum activities, ranging from Learning Outside the Classroom to vocational work based training.

Whilst at Dover Road pupils are learning academic subjects and gaining formal accreditation for this but also learning to manage their conditions and be self-supported. We work hard to maintain a real school atmosphere so that pupils can return to their home school community as soon as possible.

There is one year 11 class, one year 10 class and one combined Key Stage 3 class. The total number of places is 24 and we endeavour to return pupils to school when they are well enough, thus making room for other pupils with similar high needs.

“I feel safe at school and am starting to realise that I have a future”

“ACE DOVER ROAD IS WITHOUT A DOUBT THE MOST REMARKABLE EDUCATION PROVIDER I HAVE EVER COME ACROSS.”

49 Dover Road,
Estover,
Plymouth PL6 8ST
01752 775559

“It’s been really great and everyone here makes me feel happy. I feel like I can trust everyone and I can open up to both staff and students.”

98
ACE Health and Welfare: OUTREACH TUITION

The outreach tuition service for pupils too ill to receive mainstream education outside the home is run from our base at Seymour House. These pupils receive education in the core subjects from a teacher and support staff, initially in the home.

Pupils are encouraged to engage in other activities outside of their tuition times and complete homework to fill as close to a full timetable as possible. Transition of pupils into school based education varies, with the main route via Dover Road although we do successfully use the classroom at Seymour, libraries and a classroom in their school.

Staff liaise with the home school for support in providing the correct stage and topics to study and hence make return to school as easy as possible. Parents are encouraged to take an active part in the learning their child is doing so that progress is fast and children and parents feel fully supported.

Online and distance learning is used by some pupils to extend the offer but ACE Schools feel that the best support is face to face contact with the pupil so this is always the cornerstone of the provision.

ACE Health and Welfare: ACE NEW GENERATION

All our young parents remain registered with their mainstream school and are expected to engage in education through mainstream as well as ACE. It is our belief that a young parent has the same rights to school based education as any other pregnant woman would have the right to employment.

ACE New Generation is based at Seymour House supporting school age young and expectant mums, their partners, families and new babies providing education and support for a short period whilst they are on ‘maternity leave’. As a school provision we offer relevant qualifications in English, Mathematics, and Science. This allows the young parents to develop their parenting skills alongside their core subjects allowing them to access education. We aim to build up confidence, self-belief and self-esteem for these young parents and provide them with aspiration for the future.

The learning will be provided in the best setting to suit the young parent and can include a range of public spaces, the home and on site education.
ACE Health and Welfare:
LEVEL 12

ACE has the responsibility to offer education to all school age children who are in-patients on the wards at Derriford Hospital, Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust. We have a dedicated school room and our staff facilitate education for all children who are medically able to access it. Outreach specialist teachers will visit the hospital when needed to provide more in-depth teaching.

We work closely with our colleagues in the Plymouth Hospital NHS Trust, pupils’ schools and parents to provide a meaningful and professional experience to the children.

Due to the very much shorter stays the majority of children now have in hospital it is important we are flexible and provide as much education that a child can get whilst also making sure their family is also supported with space and time to enjoy the school environment of the ACE School Room.

We want to provide whatever is best suited to each child, be this a creative and fun learning experience to support primary English and maths or a more academic study session with one of our subject specialist teachers for a pupil in the midst of year 11 exams.

Pupils are taught wherever it is suitable for them to learn but also can make use of the IT and resources the ACE School room has at any time.

ACE Health and Welfare:
THE TERRACES

ACE provide the education element to all pupils who attend the Terraces Day Assessment Unit known as the Children’s Day Program, which is a diagnostic unit run by Livewell Southwest for young people exhibiting complex neuro developmental-psychological problems. Referral is made through Medical Consultant pathway.

We work closely with the medical staff, schools and parents to best assist with the assessment and diagnosis of the children and provide educational advice and feedback to the child’s school following the assessment process.

Pupils attend for two days per week for a four-week package where there are not usually more than 5 or 6 children aged between 4 and 14 years. Some children may attend the Terraces twice and so have an eight-week assessment but this is rare.

Educational activities in the classroom and on trips and visits outside are all designed to support the medical experts’ complex diagnostic work.

IN A 2016 SURVEY 100% OF OUR PARENTS SAID THAT THE SCHOOL EFFECTIVELY DEALS WITH BULLYING

“The teachers are sound and the lessons are sounder”
ACE Health and Welfare: PLYM BRIDGE HOUSE

Plym Bridge House is a residential (tier 4) Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) run by Livewell Southwest. There are 12 beds on the ward for young people aged between 12 to 18 years old who are suffering from a range of complex mental health problems. Referral is made by GP/Consultant pathway. They also have the Place of Safety attached to the ward.

ACE runs a revised secondary curriculum with an emphasis on the core curriculum and links with young people's schools to ensure they can continue with their studies whilst fitting in with the work of our medical colleagues.

The curriculum is designed to re-engage the young people in education and furthermore, aims to promote high aspirations amongst young people. The education also has the purpose of providing a normal environment for young people whilst in residential treatment.

All pupils receive a joint education and therapy treatment package. Therapies include consultant led interventions, individual and family therapy, drama therapy, nursing support, medication and occupational therapy. The lessons and education activities dovetail into the core work of the NHS experts.

Education staff make strong links with the pupil's home schools to better equip them for return and to make sure we can keep the aspirations and emotional stability of the pupil at the forefront.

Pupils make outstanding academic progress when in ACE Plym Bridge education but also have fantastic opportunities when they leave and are ready to return home and restart their educational journey.

ACE WRAP PLYMOUTH

The ACE WRAP service provides a personalised wrap-around education package for complex statemented or EHCP pupils at risk of having to be educated in residential placements.

Every child has a high level of support often including one to one support and bespoke timetables following thematic learning experiences.

The pupils include a post 16 transition group for whom there is no other provision available. Referrals are made via the local authority’s SMAP panel or on placement from a school.

WRAP packages by their nature involve close working relationships with a large number of partners. The aim is to provide an holistic support system to enable a pupil to be the best they can.

In consort with ACE Wrap services there is a successful family support club called Bud Club which is run with our colleagues in Hamoaze House and CAMHS to support the family needs of very many pupils and parents. Activities for the whole family enable supportive relationships to build and remove the isolation these families often feel.
ACE CORNWALL

The ACE Cornwall service provides a personalised wrap-around education package to complex statemented or EHCP pupils at risk of having to be educated in residential placements. The pupils have failed to thrive in Cornish secondary and special schools or are returning from out of County placements. The model is based on our successful Wrap service provided in Plymouth.

Every child has a high level of support often including one to one support and bespoke timetables following thematic learning experiences. A wide range of personalised learning in and out of the classroom is designed to engage the student, build resilience and provide the foundation for rapid academic progress. We work very closely with parents and carers and many other support agencies to ensure that the child’s education is paramount.

Referrals are made via the Cornwall Council Special Needs Department or Virtual School for Looked after Children.

ACE DEVON

The ACE Devon service provides a personalised wrap-around education package to complex statemented or EHCP pupils at risk of having to be educated in residential placements. The pupils have failed to thrive in Devon secondary and special schools or are returning from out of County placements. The model is based on our successful Wrap service provided in Plymouth.

Every child has a high level of support often including one to one support and bespoke timetables following thematic learning experiences. A wide range of personalised learning in and out of the classroom is designed to engage the student, build resilience and provide the foundation for rapid academic progress. We work very closely with parents and carers and many other support agencies to ensure that the child’s education is paramount.

Referrals are made via the Devon Council Special Needs Department or Virtual School for Looked after Children.

REFERRAL PROCESS

For any admission enquiry please contact us directly and we can guide you through the process.
I BELIEVE

Courtlands Special Academy

Head Teacher’s welcome

Courtlands Special Academy caters for primary aged children who have Moderate Learning Difficulties, Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties, and other complex needs. This means that our children are academically below what you might normally expect for a child of their age, usually by two to three years. Within this there is a very wide range of needs, such as children with mild medical issues, developmental disorders such as ADHD and Dyspraxia, Autism and speech and language difficulties.

It is an amazing place to come with a real feel of positivity, acceptance and camaraderie. As you walk around the building you see smiling children loving their learning and behaving exceptionally well. You see therapies many schools do not offer and a curriculum that is designed to meet the additional needs of the pupils. You see learning organised to meet the developmental needs of the children and we have the confidence to buck the trend, stand out, and to aim for the outstanding.

Lee Earnshaw

Lee Earnshaw, Head Teacher

About Courtlands Special Academy

To be granted a place here, a child must have an Education, Health and Care Plan and meet the criteria set out above. Your mainstream school or nursery Special Needs Coordinator (SENCo) can apply to your local authority for a place and a panel of heads and other professionals decide whether this school is appropriate. If so, they will be allocated a place here by the Local Authority. We have a maximum of 75 children here at any one time ranging in age from 4 to 11 years old. We take pupils from Plymouth, Devon and Cornwall and we welcome prospective visits from interested parents, SENCos or Local Authority Officers.

We have small classes of no more than ten children with lots of adult support so that the children’s difficulties are no longer limiting their progress. We look at the whole child and help them to improve both their academic achievement and their personal wellbeing. This means that we help them to socialise, eat and play independently, become more active and have better coordination. We help them to learn to swim, ride a bike and look after themselves in every way. Our children make excellent progress and really enjoy coming here – often the first time they have ever enjoyed their school.
As our parents put it... “The school’s overall provision is outstanding! It is comprehensive yet still has a personal, family feel. We couldn’t be happier with the school.”

For many of our children the difficulties they encounter in life are not ‘curable’ - we cannot ‘stop’ them being autistic, dyspraxic or dyslexic. We cannot re-wire brains damaged by genetic chance or premature birth, or in some cases by in-utero exposure to alcohol or drugs. They do however deserve to be taught about their difficulties and be supported to build bridges over them using the most up to date knowledge and practice from across the world. As special school staff, we accept our role as being ‘more than just teachers’ and take pride in taking small steps towards making a big difference. All of our children love coming to school and aim to learn to the best of their abilities.

Our curriculum has been designed from the ‘ground up’ to meet the needs of the children. Whilst it is based on the National Curriculum, we have adapted and added to what you could expect in a mainstream school. We use specialist approaches such as TEACCH, ELKLAN, Theraplay, Makaton, Attention Autism, Precision Instruction and many more to help our children to access the curriculum. We use LOTC (Learning Outside the Classroom) which has won National recognition for its innovative use of the outdoors to teach children the value of relationships and transferable skills. It uses traditional outdoor activities such as Forest School, Mountain Biking, Archery and Problem Solving to teach our pupils resilience, team work, adaptability and perseverance – all life skills that they will need to be successful in the 21st century jobs’ market.

We have a team of complimentary therapeutic workers who provide for the wider needs of the pupils from their emotional needs, through their medical needs to their sensory needs. We use expertise from our Occupational Therapist, Speech and Language Therapists and other professionals to design bespoke packages for some of the most disadvantaged children in the area. We also have a reputation for flexibility and making the impossible possible.

The children love coming to school and enjoy all that we have to offer, through their therapies to the extra-curricular clubs and activities, but most of all the personal relationships they have with their peers and us. They tell us that they feel very safe and well cared for and proud when they make progress. They behave exceptionally well when consistently supported to reflect on their own choices, and learn to empathise with others and to be proud of their own achievements. I believe that we lay solid foundations for them to build an independent and prosperous life upon in the future.

At Courtlands all of the adults aim to learn and apply the most effective ways of supporting our children to make the very best possible progress: academically, socially, developmentally and emotionally. We work closely with our colleagues from the therapeutic community, other schools and each other in order to integrate what are considered specialist practices into our every-day classroom experiences.

We provide a personalised “Learning Journey” that, when delivered consistently and as a cohesive team, allows our children to build bridges over their barriers to learning and make outstanding progress. We rigorously self-evaluate our efforts and use this evidence to inform our own development and that of the children. Through this approach we all become learners, inevitably strengthening our culture and ethos – and helping each one of us engage more meaningfully in leading our children’s learning and development.

Another parent said... “I feel confident and relaxed sending my child to Courtlands. My child always looks forward to going and enjoys the day and returns home happy and smiling.”
ACE ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION VISITING

ACE are responsible for visiting, on an annual basis, parents and children of all families where the children are electively home educated. It is a parental right not to send your child to school if they can demonstrate that they can provide a suitable education at home or elsewhere.

ACE are notified of families to visit by the Local Authority Education Welfare Service. Many families are providing suitable education but some do not. Those families are supported to improve with advice from ACE teachers, further visits, assessment and resources. Those who do not improve will have the education deemed unsuitable and the information is passed back to the Education Welfare Service and Plymouth City Council multi-agency teams to take school enforcement action. Many of these students are then referred to ACE as they have missed a lot of education.

ACE offers exam entry and assists with sitting exams. ACE runs parents’ meetings and a resource bank for parents interested in our help.

There are up to 150 different children seen by the visitors in a year.

ACE RESIDENTIAL CARE EDUCATION

ACE Schools MAT is developing an education provision in conjunction with Beaufort Care Group www.beaufortcaregroup.co.uk who provide a range of residential Care Homes to young people in the Dorset, Hampshire and Bournemouth areas.

The pupils in these care homes are often hard to place in any existing education provision so ACE will provide a bespoke full time education service to be commissioned by the Local Authority who also commission Beaufort Care to provide the residential and care provision.

We will work closely with the care homes and with the other local schools to endeavour to transition pupils to a long-term education community. To enable this we will use our successful models developed in ACE Plymouth but also take into account the context of the local need and services.

By providing a successful education a young person in care can be given all the opportunities they deserve to be the best they can, have high aspirations and gain fundamental life skills to develop their character.

Both ACE Schools MAT and Beaufort Care Group have the children at the heart of everything we do.
ACE FAMILIES

ACE provides a holistic family support service to enable all children and families cope with the difficult and complex task of education. We specifically support our own pupils and families at all our schools but also offer this support as part of a service to other schools and academies who wish to use it. It is provided as part of an enhanced package commissioned by Schools and Academies when they wish to place a child with an ACE School.

The range of support is based on the need of the children and can range from individual family workers supporting and mentoring families to overcome problems presented by challenging behaviour, mental illness, school refusal and risk taking behaviour.

We also offer a range of opportunities to take part in group sessions to better support and build family networks for those who otherwise become isolated and do not have a community round them.

ACE family has great links with other specialist services and local authority services to be able to hold the family at the centre of a multi-agency group.

ACE TRAINING

ACE Training provides a wide range of training both in ACE MAT schools and as a service to other schools.

Our range of training concentrates on our core skills in managing challenging behaviour, mental illness, school refusal and risk taking behaviour. We also provide a range of compliance training to cover health and safety matters and first aid as examples.

We provide CPI MAPA training in de-escalation and crisis intervention to all ACE MAT staff. We provide bespoke training in many areas of behaviour management. Our Training Service also provides opportunities for all staff to undertake meaningful career progression including course designed to get into teaching and tutoring, support for initial teacher training, apprenticeship, NQT and new teacher support and a range of leadership training. Coaching is at the heart of our model and specific coaching training is given so all staff can embrace coaching but also have the opportunity to become accredited coaches.

Our external support ranges from formal inspection with Ofsted to bespoke one to one training to support staff in schools who need new skills and approaches to educate specific pupils.

ACE MAT is committed to the principals of continuing development and have a range of higher level study partnerships for post graduate and masters level study. ACE Training has developed strong links with other MATs and Teaching Schools to provide a network of expertise and to share in improving the education of all children in any school.

IN A 2016 SURVEY 100% OF OUR PARENTS SAID THAT THE SCHOOL EFFECTIVELY DEALS WITH BULLYING

“The teachers are sound and the lessons are sounder”
ACE OUTREACH

We have developed a wealth of experience and expertise in working with primary and secondary aged children who suffer from Social Emotional and Mental Health issues and Learning Difficulties. We have learnt how to engage pupils in learning and how to support children with ASC, ADHD and Attachment Difficulties to making and maintaining positive relationships with their peers and adults in school.

We use many innovative and complimentary techniques such as Sensory Integration, Playworx and Learning Outside the Classroom to support our pupils to learn how to manage their emotions and self-regulate their anxieties so they are ready to learn and meet their potential.

We believe in upskilling classroom staff to deliver bespoke provision and alter working practices rather than buying in specialists for short ‘interventions’ which only impact on one pupil at a time. Our outreach support allows school staff to feel more confident to meet the increasingly complex SEHM needs of children in our city. We deliver with your staff, not to your staff in a practitioner to practitioner learning model which is bespoke to the individual needs of the purchasing school.

We will work with classroom teachers, support staff, SEND staff and school leaders to develop long lasting skills, practice and processes.

Outreach to schools is costed individually. We will give a clearly costed plan with measurable outcomes including an impact report, advice notes and bespoke resources. Our reports are accepted by the Local Authority as expert advice alongside reports from the Educational Psychology team and Communication and Interaction Team and will support you to meet the needs of the most vulnerable pupils in your school.

ACE CENTRAL SERVICES

ACE FINANCE

ACE Schools Multi Academy Trust,
Martinsgate Building,
Bretonside, Plymouth,
Devon PL4 0AT
01752 396100 or 01752 776848
Email: ace@aceschools.net

• Specialist finance team managing all aspects of financial transactions, processes and reporting.
• Finance & reporting system: using a specialist education based software accredited by leading sector organisations.
• Central purchasing team managing contracts, supplier arrangements and payment runs.
• Central banking and financial transaction processing using the latest online payment systems.
• Single outsourced payroll system: using a payroll provider with significant experience in dealing with education matters.
• Pension support and managing relationships with teachers pension scheme and local government pension schemes.
• VAT management and VAT recovery processing.
• Financial audit and accountancy support: using a leading south west accounting practice.
• Internal audit service: provided by an experienced audit practice.
• Support in submitting all DfE and ESFA returns ensuring compliance with requirements for Trust and schools.

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ACE HR
• Specialist HR team.
• External legal team specialising in HR and education sector matters: using a leading firm of south west solicitors and advisers.
• Management of Trust and school staff policies, procedures and contracts.
• Central support for a range of HR services including recruitment, induction, absence management, performance management and staff restructures.
• Management of staff welfare benefits.
• Central provision of agency / supply staff.

ACE ICT
• Central Trust IT strategy.
• Specialist IT team supporting Trust and schools from simple PC repairs and maintenance to network installations and upgrades.
• IT team supports management of communication systems including telephone systems and mobile phones.
• Use of cloud based services (e.g. MS Office 365) to support adaptable and flexible working.
• External ICT support: using a specialist education ICT provider.

ACE PREMISES
• Central support for property and premises matters.
• Management of compliance systems and planned testing and maintenance.
• Contracts for emergency and minor repairs.
• Project management of larger schemes of building works.
• Central support for applications for funding and capital bids.
• Central contracts to provide building support services: caretaking, security and cleaning.

ACE HEALTH & SAFETY & RISK
• Central support for health and safety matters.
• Central Trust and school risk register.
• IOSH (Institution of Occupational Safety & Health) accredited practitioner.
• Facilitation of health and safety training and compliance.

ACE PR & MARKETING
• Central PR & marketing for Trust and schools.
• Marketing for schools includes website development, marketing materials and communications.
• Brand development and management for Trust and schools.