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| Job Title | WYTHENSHAWE CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST  STRATEGIC FINANCE OFFICER |
| Salary | Dependent on experience and suitability |
| Responsible to | Chief Executive Officer |
| Accountable to | Wythenshawe Catholic Academy Trust Board |
| Responsible for | Leading on all matters relating to finance and resources for the WCAT |
| Organisation Chart | A copy of the Organisation Chart is attached |
| Base | St Paul’s Catholic High School  Postholder would need to be able to travel to all schools in the WCAT |

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| Job Purpose/Summary As the Strategic Finance Officer for the Wythenshawe Catholic Academy Trust the post-holder will form an integral part of the strategic leadership of the WCAT and provide extensive day to day support on finance and resources matters relating to the WCAT.  In particular the post holder will:   * Ensure the WCAT Trust mission is reflected to ensure the unique values of the Catholic   faith are reflected throughout all operational matters.   * Provide high quality strategic financial planning to ensure the WCAT makes best possible use of its resources, leaving no school in a vulnerable position, and enables each school to provide the best outcomes for their pupils. * Lead on matters relating to finance and resources for the WCAT and provide advice and guidance to individual schools in the WCAT. * Lead in the design and implementation of systems, policies and procedures to ensure compliance in all relevant legislation relating to the WCAT. * Provide effective and efficient financial management for the WCAT. * Manage the Trust registered office including the management of records and archives through the implementation of standard systems and processes; * In consultation with the Chief Executive Officer, act on recommendations from the Trust board and communicate effectively the Trust Board’s strategic direction. * Co-ordinate the implementation of the WCAT development plan in consultation with the WCAT Senior Leadership Team. * Engage with those within the Trust to promote educational achievement, leaving no school   in a vulnerable position whilst inspiring our children to reach their full potential. |

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| **Key Job Specific Responsibilities**  **General**   * Work closely with the CEO, WCAT directors and the individual school senior leadership teams. * Develop effective relationships with key stakeholders including but not limited to the Trust directors, Local Governing Bodies, Headteachers of WCAT schools, Business Managers of the WCAT schools, the Diocese of Shrewsbury, Education Funding & Skills Agency and HMRC.   **Finance**   * Provide strategic guidance, leadership and management of the WCAT finances advising the, Trust Board, Audit Committee and Finance Committee on all financial matters relating to the WCAT. * Responsible for the overall annual budget of the WCAT, taking the lead role in developing, setting and monitoring the annual budget in conjunction with the individual schools and reporting to the Trust Board as appropriate. * Advise the Trust Board and the Trust Senior Leadership Team on financial strategy that supports the educational aims and ethos of the WCAT. * Lead on the development and maintenance of all WCAT policies ensuring compliance with all relevant statutory requirements. * Develop and implement robust financial management policies, processes and reporting systems that satisfy statutory accounting and audit requirements and ensure compliance with the Academies Financial Handbook and Statement of Recommended Practices (SORP) of the Charities Commission. * Prepare year end accounts in liaison with the Auditors. * Prepare and submit all WCAT financial returns. * Ensure appropriate audit and responsible officer reports are carried out for the WCAT and all academies within the WCAT. * Provide consolidated reporting to the Trust Board and appropriate committees on the financial performance of the WCAT and individual schools, making any recommendations as required. * Provide support to schools to maximise funding, grant and sponsorship opportunities. * Support school business managers and provide appropriate training and support on agreed procedures. * Meet termly with internal audit to implement and monitor all requisite action plans.   **Company Secretary**   * To act as the Company Secretary for the Trust. * To update information held at Companies House on a regular and timely basis ensuring accounts are filed appropriately.   **Procurement**   * Establish, monitor and review policies concerning buying and ordering to demonstrate compliance and value for money. * Ensure best value in the acquisition of all services and resources through effective procurement. * Monitor and review contracts to ensure quality and best value. * Ensure compliance with tender policies and processes when securing contracts. * To liaise with Shrewsbury Diocese, DFE, LA and contractors in order to ensure best value and provide financial advice to the WCAT board and committees on all building projects.   **Administration**   * Facilitate the implementation of WCAT policies and procedures across the WCAT schools providing support to School Business Managers where necessary. * Maintain the Register of Directors and liaise with legal organisations, CES Shrewsbury Diocese to submit returns as required. * Manage WCAT correspondence including responding to routine correspondence, requests for information and distribution of correspondence to appropriate WCAT representatives. * Research, collate, and analyse data for the CEO and Trust Board as required. |

Person Specification

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| **Area** | **Essential** | **Desirable** | | **Assessment** |
| **Values and behaviours** | | | | |
| A practising Catholic and/or have a demonstrable commitment to the Mission and ethos of the WCAT. | √ |  | | I/R |
| Commitment to and focused on quality, promotes high standards in all they do | √ |  | | A/I |
| Able to make a connection between their work and the benefit to pupils | √ |  | | A/I |
| Values diversity and difference, operates with integrity and openness | √ |  | | A/I |
| Works well with others, is positive and helpful, listens, involves, respects and learns from the contribution of others | √ |  | | A/I |
| Consistently looks to improve what they do, looks for successful tried and tested ways of working, and also seeks out innovation | √ |  | | A/I |
| Actively develops themselves and supports others to do the same | √ |  | | A/I |
| **Qualifications** | | | | |
| Professional qualification in accountancy – ACA, CIMA,CIPFA, ACCA or equivalent |  | √ | | A/I/C |
| Educated to degree level in relevant subject or equivalent level of experience of working at a similar level in specialist area | √ |  | | A/I |
| **Knowledge and Experience** | | | | |
| Understanding of Academy Finance | √ |  | A/I | |
| Understanding of Company and Charity Law |  | √ | A/I | |
| Experience in financial analysis and risk management | √ |  | A/I | |
| Experience of leading the strategic financial planning for a school, academy or other organisation | √ |  | A/I | |
| Experience of working as a member of a senior team | √ |  | A/I | |
| Experience in the use of financial accounting software packages | √ |  |  | |
| Experience of procuring and monitoring of contracts to ensure value for money and key performance indicators are met |  | √ | A/I | |
| Experience of working with directors and senior management | √ |  | A/I | |
| Experience of completing bids for external funding |  | √ | A/I | |
| **Skills and Capabilities** | | | | |
| Numerate and technically competent | √ |  | A/I | |
| **Communication Skills** | | | | |
| Skills for communication on complex information and administrative matters, requiring developed interpersonal and oral/ written communication skills | √ |  | A/I | |
| Ability to pull together comprehensive draft reports, data and letters, negotiating, networking and persuasive skills | √ |  | A/I | |
| **Analytical Skills** | | | | |
| Problem solving skills and ability to respond to sudden unexpected demands | √ |  | | A/I |
| Excellent time management skills with the ability to re-prioritise | √ |  | | A/I |
| **Planning Skills** | | | | |
| Skills for supporting project management | √ |  | | A/I |
| **Management Skills** | | | | |
| Skills for managing aspects of projects ensuring they meet financial targets. | √ |  | | A/I |
| **Physical Skills** | | | | |
| Skills for manipulating information | √ |  | | A/I |
| Advanced keyboard skills, use of a range of software | √ |  | | A/I |
| **Autonomy/Freedom to Act** | | | | |
| Ability to work on own initiative and organise own workload with minimal supervision working to tight and often changing timescales | √ |  | | A/I |
| **\*Assessment will take place with reference to the following information**  **A=Application form I=Interview T=Test C=Certificate R = Reference** | | | | |