

# Introducing our expertise: Due Diligence and MAT Growth

Trusts are responsible for the safeguarding of millions of pounds of public money and there is an expectation that the governance is therefore robust and in line with best practice.

Effective due diligence is critical to enable the executive team and trustees to make fully informed decisions when merging with another Trust.

We can help you focus on what due diligence is, what should be investigated and provide real-world examples of projects we have worked on.

If you would like any help or support with a prospective merger, please let us know and we would be happy to help.



### What is Due Diligence

Due Diligence is an investigation into the background, financial conditions business operations and contractual obligations of a person, charitable Trust of company.

## Academy Due Diligence Guide

Our specialist team at Bishop Fleming has undertaken a number of due diligence assignments in relation to Academy mergers. In this document we give examples of where you may need our help plus some case studies of projects we have recently completed.

### Our Education Knowledge Hub

is being updated regularly with the latest insights and advice, but if you can't find what you are looking for, please contact your usual Bishop Fleming adviser who will be happy to help you.





# Key takeaways & top tips

- 1. Undertaking due diligence is key to:
  - Protect the assets of the trust;
  - Ensure a cultural fit with potential partners;
  - Demonstrate and document Trustees have fulfilled their governance responsibilities;
  - Provide an independent view from the various Trust Stakeholders.
- 2. Effective due diligence requires a multi-disciplinary team which may include:
  - Accounting and auditing advisors.
  - Legal advisors.
  - Building surveyors/property specialists.
  - Health and safety specialists.
  - Human resource advisors.
  - Any other specialist deemed necessary.
- 3. ICFP metrics and sensitivity analysis on the enlarged Trust's financial forecasts can be built into the due diligence scope to understand the dynamics of the combined Trust post-merger.
- 4. It is essential that due diligence is carried out before any decisions are formally made to provide a complete, accurate and reliable vision of the subject, enabling fact-based decisions to be made.



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