



SENIOR FINANCE & SYSTEMS BUSINESS PARTNER

Status: Permanent

Working Hours: 37 hours per week, 52 weeks per year

Salary: P05, SCP44 - £55,611.00 - £59,006.00 FTE

Primary location: Assay Studios, 141 Newhall Street, Birmingham, B3 1SF

Start date: As soon as possible



Central Region
Schools Trust

Founded by the RSA

ADVERT

Central Region Schools Trust are delighted to offer an exciting opportunity to join our Central Finance Team as a Senior Finance & Systems Business Partner.

Reporting to the Head of Finance, and accountable to the Chief Finance Officer (CFO), this strategic role plays a key part in supporting the Trust's financial sustainability, operational efficiency and digital development.

Working closely with Senior Leaders, Principals and Operational teams, the successful candidate will provide expert financial business partnering, deliver high-quality management information and lead the ongoing development and optimisation of finance systems and reporting processes. The role combines strategic financial leadership with responsibility for driving continuous improvement, system integration, data quality, automation and business intelligence across the Trust.

We are seeking a proactive, analytical and collaborative finance professional who is fully or part-qualified (ACA, ACCA, CIMA or CIPFA), with significant experience in finance business partnering, management accounting, financial planning and systems development. The successful candidate will have excellent stakeholder management skills, strong financial modelling capability and a passion for using technology and data to improve decision-making and organisational performance.

As part of Central Region Schools Trust, you will work alongside colleagues across our academies and central services, contributing to our mission of delivering high-quality education and positive outcomes for pupils through robust financial leadership and continuous improvement.

Application Process

Interested candidates who wish to have an informal conversation about this role, and/or a tour of the Site are welcome to contact HR@crst.org.uk for further information.

Our ideal candidate should possess a commitment to working with children, a willingness to be reflective, be committed to continual improvement through professional dialogue and exploration and enjoy working flexibly as part of a team.

Closing date for applications: Friday 31st July 2026

Central Region Schools Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and as such expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and the successful candidate will be subject to an enhanced DBS check and satisfactory pre-employment checks in accordance with Safer Recruitment practices. All candidates shortlisted for interview will be subject to an online check and will be required to declare they are suitable to work with children.



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Job Description

Key responsibilities:

Strategic Financial Leadership

- Support the CFO in developing and delivering the Trust's financial strategy, ensuring alignment with educational, operational and organisational priorities.
- Provide strategic financial insight and challenge to the Executive Team, Trustees and senior leaders.
- Lead financial modelling for school growth, investment decisions, organisational change and strategic projects.
- Contribute to the Trust's three to five-year financial planning, scenario modelling and risk management activities.
- Identify opportunities to improve financial performance, efficiency and value for money across the Trust.

Finance Business Partnering

- Act as the lead Finance Business Partner for a designated group of academies and central functions.
- Build strong relationships with Principals, Executive and central and senior leadership teams.
- Support curriculum-led financial planning (ICFP), workforce planning and resource allocation.
- Translate complex financial information into meaningful insights for non-financial stakeholders.
- Provide challenge and support to ensure resources are used effectively and in line with Trust priorities.

Finance Systems & Digital Transformation

- Lead the development, optimisation and governance of the Trust's finance systems and associated processes.
- Act as the primary finance lead for system implementations, upgrades, integrations and process improvements.
- Work closely with IT, HR and operational teams to maximise system capability and efficiency.
- Drive automation of routine reporting, budgeting and forecasting processes.
- Develop and maintain management dashboards and business intelligence reporting tools.
- Ensure the integrity, security and quality of financial data across all systems.
- Identify opportunities to streamline workflows and improve user experience through technology.
- Support the evaluation and implementation of new systems and digital solutions.

Budgeting, Forecasting & Reporting

- Lead annual budget setting and financial planning for assigned academies and functions.
- Produce high-quality monthly management accounts, variance analysis and performance commentary.
- Oversee monthly forecasting and identify emerging financial risks and opportunities.
- Develop meaningful KPI reporting and performance dashboards for leaders and trustees
- Support the production of consolidated Trust reports for Trustees, Executive Leaders and principals.
- Improve reporting processes to provide timely and insightful management information.

Leadership & Continuous Improvement

- Line manage and develop Finance Business Partners and other finance staff as required.
- Champion continuous improvement across finance processes, systems and reporting.
- Deliver training and guidance to finance and non-finance users on systems, reporting and financial processes.
- Promote standardisation and best practice across academies and central services.
- Deputise for the CFO or Head of Finance as required.

Compliance & Governance

- Ensure compliance with the Academy Trust Handbook, DfE requirements and the Trust's financial regulations.
- Maintain effective financial controls across both processes and systems.
- Support internal and external audits and regulatory returns.
- Ensure appropriate governance around data management, reporting standards and system access controls.
- Contribute to the development of policies and procedures relating to finance systems and data governance.

Other duties

- To actively participate in personal and professional development opportunities, attending and facilitating training activities to ensure the changing demands of the job are met.
- To undertake such other duties, training and/or hours of work as may be reasonably required and which are consistent with the general level of responsibility of this job
- To promote the vision and values of the Trust.
- To set an example of personal integrity and professionalism as outlined in the Staff Code of Conduct
- Support other Academies within Central Region Schools Trust where appropriate.
- To actively participate in the performance management process.
- To role model professional and positive behaviours to all students in our care
- To carry out any other reasonable duties as directed by the Head of Finance and CFO.

Safeguarding

Central Region Schools Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and as such expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and the successful candidate will be subject to an enhanced DBS check and satisfactory pre-employment checks in accordance with Safer Recruitment practices. All candidates shortlisted for interview will be subject to an online check and will be required to declare they are suitable to work with children.

Values

The postholder will demonstrate a commitment to the Trust's values and mission, ensuring that all financial decisions support the delivery of high-quality education and positive outcomes for pupils across the Trust.

Person Specification

Criteria	Essential	Desirable	Method of Assessment
Education and Qualifications 	Fully or part-qualified accountant (ACA, ACCA, CIMA or CIPFA).		Application form, Interview and certificates
Qualities and Attributes 	Suitability to work with children. Able to form and maintain appropriate relationship and personal boundaries with children and young people. Outstanding spoken and written communication skills with and ability to present information in a clear and concise manner.		Application form, references and interview
Skills 	Significant experience in finance business partnering, management accounting and financial planning. Experience leading finance systems development, implementation or optimisation projects. Strong analytical and problem-solving skills with the ability to interpret complex data. Demonstrable experience of process improvement and operational efficiency initiatives. Advanced Excel skills and strong financial modelling capability.	Experience within a Multi-Academy Trust, education or public sector environment. Experience of finance systems such as Sage Intacct, IMP and SAM People Experience with reporting and business intelligence tools such as Power BI. Understanding of systems integration between Finance, HR and Payroll platforms.	Application form, Interview and certificates

Person Specification

Criteria	Essential	Desirable	Method of Assessment
Skills 	Experience producing dashboards, management information and performance reporting. Strong stakeholder management skills with the ability to influence senior leaders. Excellent communication skills with the ability to explain financial and technical concepts to non-specialists	Experience managing organisational change and digital transformation projects. Knowledge of data governance and information management best practice.	Application form, Interview and certificates
Personal Qualities 	Strategic thinker with a commercial and systems-oriented mindset. Collaborative and relationship focused. Naturally curious with a passion for continuous improvement. Proactive and solutions focused, with the ability to move between the big picture and the detail Strong organisational and project management skills, personal skills, self motivation and enthusiasm. Resilient and adaptable in a fast-paced environment. Committed to integrity, transparency and supporting educational excellence. A commitment to equality and diversity & health and safety. A commitment to child protection and safeguarding An understanding of child protection and safeguarding		Application form, references and interview

Need more advice?

Please see our website
(Central Region Schools Trust
- Founded by the RSA)

Central Region Schools Trust
B.06 Assay Studios
141 – 143 Newhall Street
Birmingham, B3 1SF

centralregionschoolstrust.co.uk



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