“With MHR we felt it was all in the right place.”

iTrent a perfect fit for a multi-academy trust.

About Leigh Academies Trust

Founded in 2008 Leigh Academies Trust (LAT) now has 31 academies (educating over 20,000 pupils) stretching across Kent, the Medway towns and South-East London; a mix of primary, secondary and special institutions.

LAT has been an MHR customer since 2018.

What they were looking for

The system LAT was using was fast becoming obsolete. It wasn’t robust enough to deal with the needs of a growing multi-academies trust. They wanted flexibility, agility and scalability:

- To automate key processes
- To run payroll in-house with the option to use MHR’s emergency payroll service if needed
- To manage the needs of schools in different local authorities – each with their own, sometimes complex needs and demands

“We wanted a software provider that was flexible and able to deal with lots of different scenarios and situations.”

– Richard Taylor, People Director, Leigh Academies Trust
“iTrent gives you the operational flexibility to be able to manage a skilled workforce efficiently.”

Richard Taylor
People Director
Leigh Academies Trust

Challenge
LAT wanted a solution that would:
- Improve accuracy while reducing risk
- Cope comfortably with the trust’s growth
- Have more automated systems and speed things up – they wanted to move away from manual processes
- Deal with multiple contracts, zero hours contracts, term time working, pro rata salary payments and sector-specific nuances

Solution
“We wanted a software provider that was flexible and able to deal with lots of different scenarios and situations.”
– Richard Taylor

Richard Taylor and LAT’s payroll manager, Derek Stewart had both used iTrent in previous roles and were very aware of iTrent’s capabilities. The widespread take-up in local authorities where there were operational parallels provided added assurance.

“We were confident it was the right solution.” – Richard Taylor

Results and benefits
- No longer a need to take on a new payroll person every time an academy joined LAT (20% saving in terms of staff – not through losing people, but not needing to hire them as LAT has grown)
- Onboarding process is now more efficient and detailed
- Improved report-generating times and improved reporting capabilities through business objects

“No more fiddling around with Excel spreadsheets – probably saves me two days a month.” – Richard Taylor

Increased efficiencies in payroll processing.

Improved onboarding process for new hires – approximately 400 in the lead-up to each autumn term.

“Probably the best product of its type in terms of customisation.”
– Richard Taylor

“iTrent has the flexibility to adapt to a range of different organisations relatively easily.” – Richard Taylor