

# Finance Partner

**Grade:** Band 9 (SCP 24 – 27)

**Salary:** £35,412 - £38,220

**Contract:** Full-time, Permanent

**Location:** The Education Village Academy Trust

## Join Our Village - Help Us Shape Excellent Education Through Financial Insight

At **The Education Village Academy Trust (EVAT)**, our mission is rooted in doing *what is right* for children and young people. We are a values-driven Trust built on **Excellence, Ambition, Inclusion, Ethical practice**, and the strength of **Teamwork**. Above all, we believe “**We are a village**” - working collaboratively with our schools, families, communities, and staff to deliver exceptional opportunities for every learner.

We are seeking an exceptional **Finance Partner** to join our central finance team and play a pivotal role in supporting schools across the Trust. If you are passionate about delivering high-quality financial leadership, enjoy collaborative working, and want to make a difference in an organisation that puts children at the heart of its decisions, we would love to hear from you.

### About the Role

The **Finance Partner** is a strategic and trusted advisor to school leaders across an allocated portfolio of EVAT academies. As the primary finance contact, you will deliver high-quality financial planning, analysis, and insight - supporting school improvement, resource management, and long-term sustainability.

You will also contribute to Trust-wide workstreams such as funding, procurement, value for money, insurance, BACS oversight, bank reconciliation frameworks, and financial reporting. This is a highly influential role with significant reach across the Trust.

As a Finance Partner, you will exemplify the EVAT values of **Excellence, Ambition, Integrity, and Teamwork**, offering a service that is ethical, transparent, and consistently delivered to the highest standards.

# Key Responsibilities

As a Finance Partner, you will:

## ✓ Provide exceptional financial leadership

- Act as the single point of contact for school leaders on all financial matters
- Lead annual budget planning, ensuring budgets are sustainable and aligned to Trust strategy
- Produce financial forecasts, management accounts, and insightful commentary
- Support school improvement planning and scenario modelling

## ✓ Strengthen financial compliance and control

- Ensure adherence to Trust financial policies, DfE requirements, and audit actions
- Monitor KPIs, benchmarking outcomes, and value for money
- Lead cross-Trust workstreams such as funding, procurement, BACS controls, insurance, bank reconciliations, and credit card oversight

## ✓ Drive continuous improvement

- Develop and implement improved finance systems, processes, and reporting tools
- Support audit processes and deliver resulting recommendations
- Provide training and guidance to school and Trust colleagues

## ✓ Collaborate across the EVAT community

- Work closely with the Management Accountant, CFO, Payroll & Finance Officer and other Finance Partners
- Contribute to long-term financial planning and Trust growth activities
- Model EVAT's values in your daily work, fostering a culture of integrity, ambition, and teamwork

# What We're Looking For

## Essential

- NVQ Level 3 or equivalent relevant experience
- Strong numeracy, analytical skills, and attention to detail
- Ability to work collaboratively with senior leaders and external stakeholders
- Knowledge of academy finance, education funding, and statutory requirements
- Excellent communication skills and customer-focused approach
- Understanding of safeguarding requirements

## Desirable

- Part-qualified AAT/ACA/ACCA/CIMA/CIPFA
- Experience with Xero or similar finance systems
- Knowledge of Teachers' Pensions and LGPS processes
- Experience working within a multi-academy trust environment

We are looking for someone who embodies our EVAT ethos: **high standards, moral purpose, inclusivity, and putting children and young people first.**

# Why Join Education Village Academy Trust?

By joining EVAT, you become part of a compassionate and forward-thinking organisation committed to:

- **Excellence** – delivering high-quality work that supports the best possible outcomes
- **Values-driven practice** – acting ethically, transparently, and with moral purpose
- **Ambition for all** – enabling children and adults to achieve their potential
- **Teamwork** – working collaboratively across our “village” of schools and teams
- **Inclusivity and fairness** – respecting and supporting diverse communities

In addition, you will benefit from:

- Local Government Pension Scheme
- Generous annual leave
- Professional development and career progression
- A supportive and collaborative central finance team

## How to Apply

For an informal discussion about the role please contact:

Lisa Dunn, Chief Finance Officer, 01325 245000, [ldunn@educationvillage.org.uk](mailto:ldunn@educationvillage.org.uk)

Application forms should be submitted to the People Team using [peopleteam@educationvillage.org.uk](mailto:peopleteam@educationvillage.org.uk)

Closing Date: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026

Shortlisted candidates will be contacted on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Interview Date: Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026