

Case study: supporting sponsors and project managers through an Academy launch

Client: St Lawrence Academy, Scunthorpe, Sponsored by the Diocese of Lincoln.

Organisation Profile: An Academy, opened Sept 2009, replacing High Ridge School.

Client Overview: The St Lawrence Academy serves an area of significant deprivation, educational under-performance and unemployment in Scunthorpe. The Diocese of Lincoln, reflecting the Church of England's mission to engage in the transformation of the country's most deprived communities, decided to create a distinctive Church of England Academy to act as a catalyst for change in the regeneration of the locality.

The Challenge: To support the sponsors and project managers through the process of creating an academy that would raise the aspirations of the community and local young people, and provide an environment for learning in which the Sponsor's commitment to social, moral and spiritual development will be nurtured alongside academic and vocational excellence.

The EdisonLearning Solution: A team of our Achievement Advisers, led by former DCSF Academies Adviser, John McAleavy, worked alongside Project Managers PKF to drive the academy project through feasibility and implementation phases to time and budget, meeting in full all DCSF project requirements. The EdisonLearning team focused particularly on enabling the sponsors to articulate the detail of their vision for the academy. Using the company's proprietary processes, system tools and research into school operational design, we facilitated the development of an operational model that combines the sponsor's core values, acknowledged best educational practice, and an innovative approach to structures and the use of time and resources.

Project Outcomes: The creation of the St Lawrence Academy is acknowledged as an exemplar academy project in which sponsor aspirations were met and exceeded, enabling the creation of a thriving new organisation, and bringing new hope and opportunity to the locality. EdisonLearning continues to work with with the Diocese of Lincoln and has recently supported the Diocese in the development of a proposal for a New School Competition.



The Diocese of Lincoln and EdisonLearning have evolved a highly effective working relationship focusing on the visioning and development of new school projects. It's very effective because, as the consultant, EdisonLearning has an in-depth grasp of the coherent vision and philosophy of the Diocese that underpins and guides all its new school projects.

– Peter Staves, Diocesan Director of Education, Diocese of Lincoln