

SAS Group Buy Scheme

Group Budget Protection for School Staff Absence and Wellbeing Services

Schools Advisory Service (SAS) provides a Group Buy Scheme (GBS) as an alternative to the traditional absence insurance cover available on the market.

The GBS is designed specifically for groups of schools within the same Trust, Local Authority or Diocese, looking to purchase a staff absence solution collaboratively. Schools pool their funds together into a single account for payment of absences on agreed terms.

The GBS combines the best features of other market alternatives along with exclusive GBS benefits, these include:

- Guaranteed fixed prices for 3 years including ongoing absences
- Return of surplus funds to group members
- Pre-existing conditions included as standard
- Reduced administration- No GP contact is required for absence reimbursements
- Insurance arrangements are protected by the FCA
- Full flexibility on service options E.g. choice of waiting days, daily amounts etc
- Insurance arrangements are underwritten by AA+ rated insurer
- Absence reimbursements paid to Schools every half-term
- School wellbeing support services included

As industry experts, with over 21 years' experience, SAS have developed the GBS service in consultation with schools as an alternative solution for school absence management.

Our research has shown more School and Academy groups are considering self-funding arrangements due to budget restraints. This option, however, does come with its financial risks as staff costs often make up the majority of the schools' budget. The GBS solution will protect your school's budget against absence costs; whilst also providing wellbeing support to staff and having the added benefit of surplus funds being returned.

The agreement will outline the terms and conditions of the GBS, explaining how the mechanism for group budget insurance would be activated and which services are available under the wellbeing services.