

*Improving all  
the time*



## FPSadvance.Net Software

**Does your School Development Plan drive your budgeting process? If your answer is no, HCSS Education's new FPSadvance.Net Software provides the Solution**

As you will be aware, it is a requirement of the Financial Management Standard that all schools use their School Development Plan to drive their annual budgeting process. The HCSS software development team has been busy over recent months and has totally rewritten our hugely successful Financial Planning for Schools software resulting in the release of FPS.Net and FPSadvance.Net

Our FPS.Net products use a new platform called VB.Net rather than Excel. VB.Net has a number of distinct advantages over Excel including:

- ✓ Performance – faster response when opening, saving and navigating around the software
- ✓ Functionality - the ability to import data from previous models removing the need to re-input data each year
- ✓ Data Integrity - capable of adding very specific data validation to all user input fields ensuring data integrity throughout the software

Whilst we will continue to offer the Excel version as an annual upgrade to existing users schools will have the option of purchasing one of two versions of FPS.Net:

FPS.Net – has all the benefits of our Excel based 5 year Financial Planning for Schools Software © but adds even more functions to further assist users:

- ✓ User defined reporting – the user has the ability to define exactly what information they wish to report on resulting in the targeted communication of relevant financial information
- ✓ User Accounts function with the ability to define software access rights
- ✓ Unique “print to excel” function
- ✓ Ability to upload data from previous versions of Financial Planning software resulting in a significant time saving
- ✓ Easy to navigate staffing pages
- ✓ Protected Formula specific to each Authority resulting in data integrity throughout the software

FPSadvance.Net - including the School Development Plan (SDP) module based on the Every Child Matters agenda. The SDP is automatically linked to the planning software enabling you to see how the school's development strategy impacts on their long term financial position.

In FPSadvance.Net, the SDP module is automatically linked to the standard version. The user is able to enter their aims, objectives, resource requirements, actions and costs into the relevant academic year/term and the software feeds them into the financial plan in the relevant financial year.

The school can plan in academic years whilst the resources are recognised in the relevant financial year. All figures are highlighted in the financial planning module if they have been created from the SDP. Various reports are available including a full analysis of the costs of the SDP.



### Reporting

The nature of the software allows a huge variety of reports to be generated, based on the requirements of the user. The reports range from CFR code bar charts showing changes in expenditure on the School Development plan over the five years, to detailed staffing monitoring reports on a monthly basis. The reports can be customised to the user's individual needs. The software also allows the exporting of reports to Excel. This enables the reports to be easily emailed and reformatted if required.

### Automatic Importing of Budget Share data

The software can automatically populate the pupil numbers and budget share information in the first year of the plan, based on the user selecting the correct school name from a drop down list. (Please note this feature is only available where this information has been provided to HCSS in spreadsheet format prior to issue of the software).

### Automatic Import from Excel Version

The software can automatically import part or all the data from a previous Excel version of HCSS's Financial Planning Software for Schools©. This saves a great deal of time, as it removes the need for copying and pasting information.

### Automatic Import from One Year to the Next

Users buying into the annual upgrade in future years will receive a disc with the upgraded software. Once installed, the new software will automatically transfer data from the previous year's model, again removing the need for copying and pasting information.

### Multiple Windows

The software allows several windows to be opened simultaneously and viewed side by side. For example, this allows users to instantly view the long term financial effect of changes in pupil numbers or staffing levels; by viewing the five year summary report whilst amending the data pages.

### Data Validation

Data input is securely validated. We have made it very difficult for user error to have a serious impact on the calculation formulae, thereby ensuring data integrity.

### Security

The data is totally secure. Unless a user has a username and password, they cannot use the software to view or amend the data. Multiple user accounts can be set up with varying levels of access relevant to individual users.

### Future Developments

HCSS Education is established as the market leader, developing software and providing training and consultancy support services to enable schools to manage their finances effectively. Our close link with the DCSF ensures that our software will always reflect the latest education finance policy. Any changes affecting school finance and five year planning will be incorporated in the software and included in the annual upgrade. We will also add extra functionality each year, based on user feedback and changes in the education environment, ensuring that the product reflects the latest needs of users.

### For further information please:

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