



Arbor for *Secondary* Schools

The UK's most popular MIS and
school management software



2 in 3
schools who switch
MIS choose Arbor

About us

With Arbor, schools work *better*

At Arbor, we're proud to be home to the *UK's most loved MIS and school management software*

Every day, over 11,000 schools and trusts use Arbor MIS to reclaim hours of their time, see the data that matters clearly, and support staff with the tools and insight they need to work at their best.



More secondaries choose Arbor than any other cloud MIS

And now, we're a full suite of best-in-class systems that work together to support operations across schools and streamline the most time-consuming tasks staff face.

The Arbor School Management Suite:



92%

Agree Arbor has transformed the way they work for the better

74%

Agree Arbor has improved their working life

92%

Agree Arbor saves them time

This guide is designed to help you get to know Arbor MIS, give you a quick introduction to our new products, and explain how and why so many secondary schools are choosing a better way to work with Arbor.

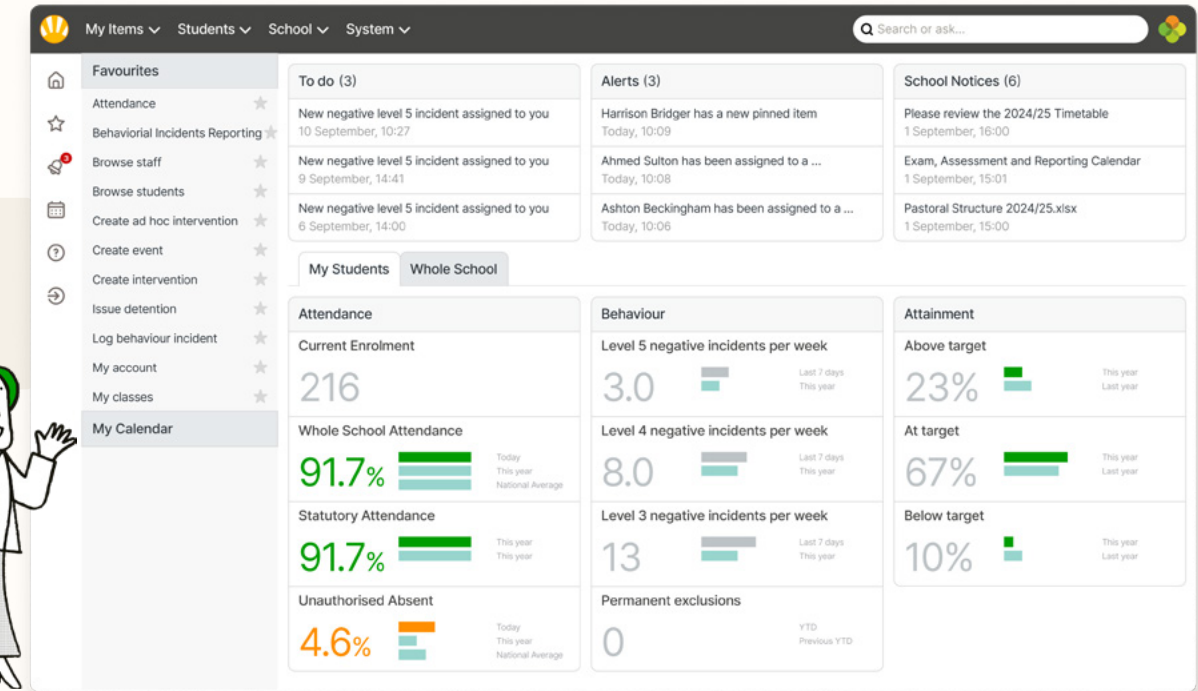
Arbor MIS: At a glance

Create a *joined-up* secondary school

Arbor MIS brings together people, processes and systems across your secondary school.

It's designed for everyone to dive in and use, cuts down on third party systems, and acts as a single source of truth for staff - making it easy for your whole school to work better, together.

Rated the
UK's most
intuitive MIS



75%

Have eliminated at least one third party system with Arbor

£3k+

saved per year by eliminating third party systems

Built-in modules join up workflows and data

Arbor includes:

- Behaviour & Interventions
- Exam management
- Progress Tracking
- Cashless Payments
- Parent and Student Portals
- Communications
- Staff Cover

+ more

Integrates seamlessly with your favourite tools



Create consistency and manage complexity

Arbor makes it easy to standardise and roll out policies like behaviour management and intervention planning. Personalise and tweak them to suit your school.

The complete picture of every student

Arbor brings all your data together - from student performance and interventions, to a history of parent comms, staff records and benchmarks from the DfE and Ofsted.

“I liken Arbor to when I got my last car — you could tell the person who designed it probably wanted to drive it.

You find, with Arbor, that you’re developing it in a way that makes it easier to use. There are no more spreadsheets going back and forth.”



Thierry Brunier
Data Manager
Ralph Thoresby School

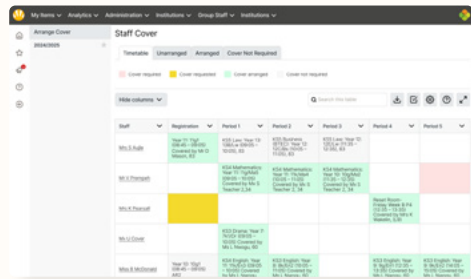
74%

agree Arbor has
improved their
working life

Designed for everyone

A shared workspace

Arbor is designed for everyone - from the office, to senior leaders, teachers and parents. With the tools everyone needs at their fingertips, you can break down silos, rally around the same information, and support each other.

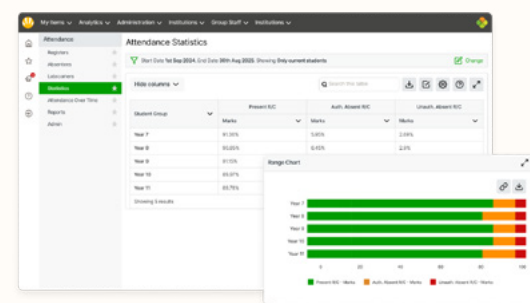


Office staff

Let your MIS do more of the heavy lifting

From completing census, to chasing attendance - Arbor reduces repetitive steps, automates things you do a lot, and surfaces what you need in fewer clicks.

- Automated absence follow-up
- Built in communications
- School Census Wizard
- Clubs and Trips Manager



Leaders

Understand your whole school at a glance

Reduce the reporting burden on everyone with real-time data on your homepage. Drill down to the detail, or filter by student groups, and follow up instantly.

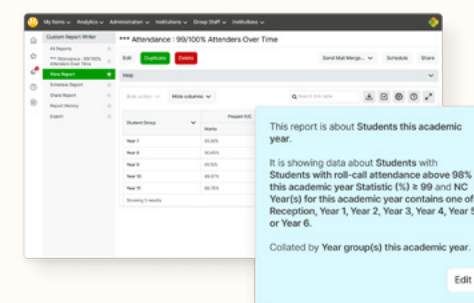
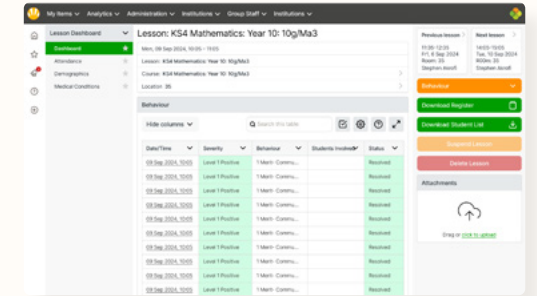
- KPI dashboards
- Automated reporting
- Live data feeds
- Pastoral progress reports

Teachers

Stay on top of things and act, fast.

With real-time data stored securely in the cloud, you can access and analyse clean, live data MIS from anywhere. Crunch it in any number of ways with powerful tools.

- Teacher Homepage
- Student Profile
- My Classroom

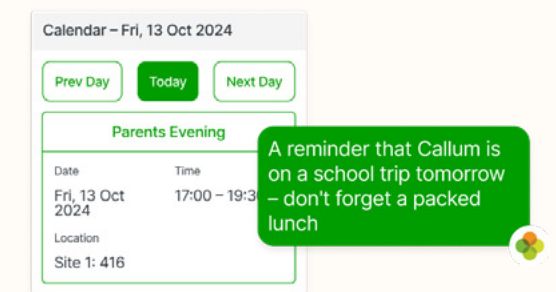


Data Managers

Less time collating, more time analysing

With real-time data stored securely in the cloud, you can access and analyse clean, live data MIS from anywhere. Crunch it in any number of ways with powerful tools.

- Live Data Feeds
- Custom User Defined Fields
- Data Collection Policies
- Data Quality Dashboard



Parents & Guardians

Stay in the loop, in one place

See insights into a child's progress, activities and to-dos in the Arbor app. It also simplifies updating details, managing payments, and more.

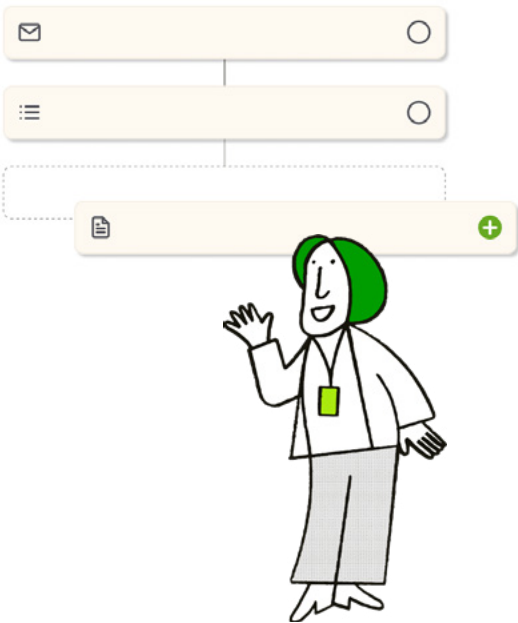
- Student calendar
- Cashless payments
- In-app messaging

Put your everyday admin on autopilot

Introducing Arbor Workflows

Turn your everyday, manual processes into something which Arbor runs for you. Arbor Workflows takes on the work that slows schools down, so that every process runs like clockwork.

New to Arbor for 2026, Arbor Workflows is a step change in the way we're helping schools save time and effort. We can't wait for you to try it.



How does it work?

- 1. Choose a template or start from scratch.**
With drag-and-drop features, it's easy to get started. Build a workflow for any school process.
- 2. Automate any process.**
Create something simple like an automatic trigger to update Arbor, or design a more complex process such as staff onboarding or SEN needs assessment. Use forms, reminders, checklists and more.
- 3. Switch it on and monitor progress.**
Use workflow tracking to see where each process is up to, and who might be holding things up.

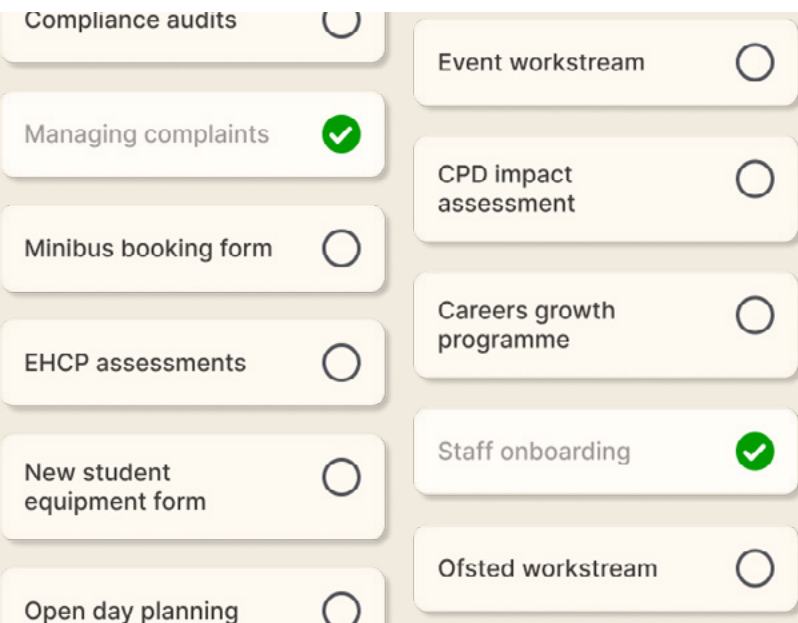
Features include:

- Trigger emails that inform, chase or remind others
- Update / create MIS records
- Issue tasks and checklists
- Collect data using custom forms
- Start using a library of templates
- Set rules that vary steps in the workflow based on people's actions.

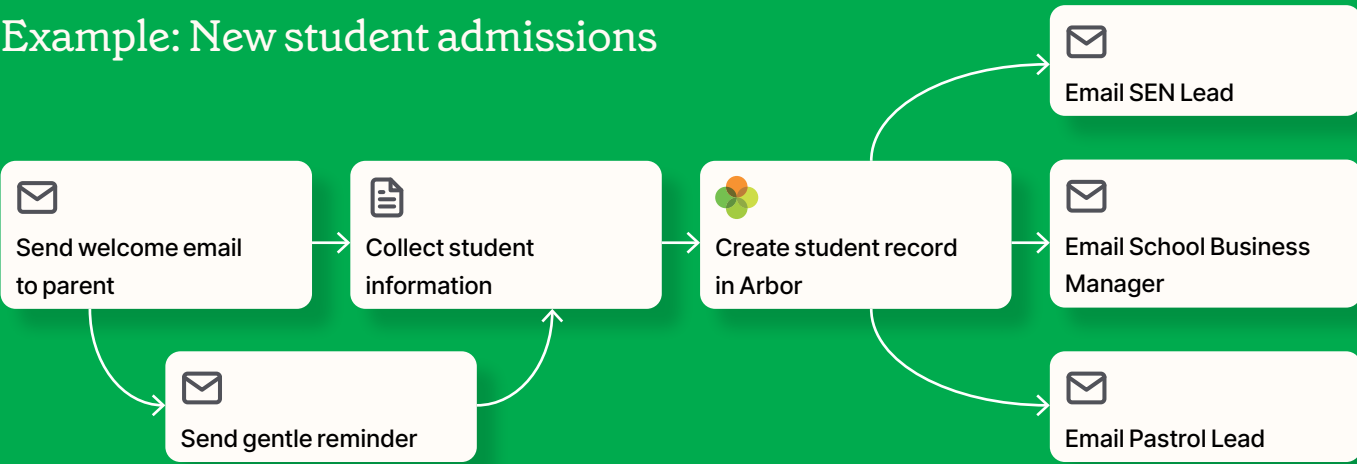
What's a workflow?

A workflow is a series of actions which Arbor can run for you - designed to get something done, from start to finish. Turn manual processes into workflows and let them run again and again.

Arbor Workflows schedules actions such as emails, forms, and approvals to happen automatically. It frees up time and gives you peace of mind that your processes are in progress.



Example: New student admissions



Meet ✨Arbor AI, the newest member of your team

Seamlessly built into your MIS, Arbor AI makes your working life easier.

Whether it's handling the admin for absence management, answering questions about your school data, or supporting you through an Ofsted inspection, Arbor AI saves you time and stress, so you can focus on what matters most.

All of our AI features are designed to help you get the most out of Arbor, instantly.

- Create an instant Student Summary

Arbor will summarise key data points about your students and combine them with written comments from you to produce a mini-student report.
- Draft an email, letter or SMS

Tell Arbor what you want to write about, choose a tone of voice and a language, and Arbor will suggest a draft in seconds.
- Suggest a formula

Describe what you need to calculate in your Custom Report, and Arbor will create the formula for you and display the results.

Ask Arbor

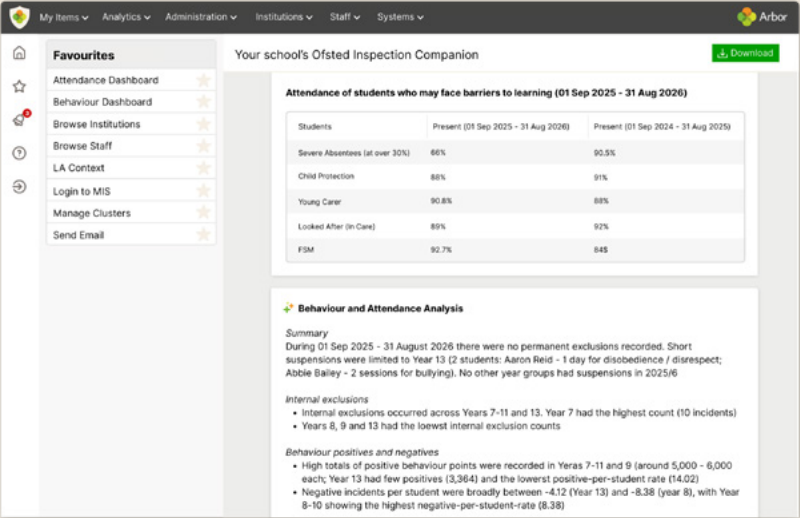
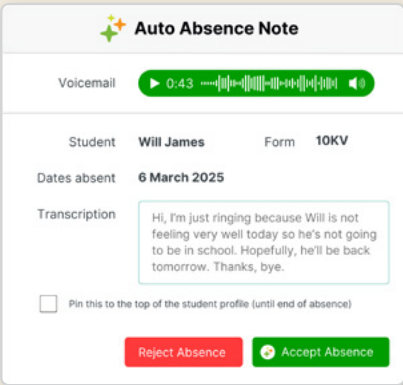
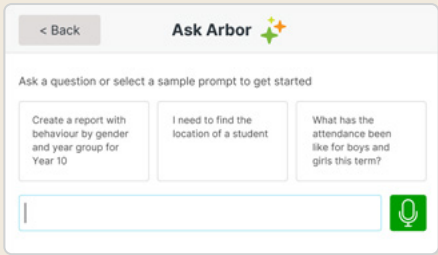
Want to quickly find out which class Tom is in, get a table showing persistently absent students, or see a list of students who have had positive behaviour points this week? Just type your question, and Ask Arbor brings the right information together in seconds.

Auto Absence

Auto Absence listens to, transcribes, and logs the code for every absence-related voicemail your school receives. Leaving Attendance Teams with just one task to do: approving each absence.

Ofsted Inspection Companion

Arbor's Ofsted Inspection Companion pulls together the key evidence inspectors expect - behaviour, attendance, staffing, safeguarding, and more - into one straightforward, easy-to-use guide your leadership team can rely on. This report gives you back precious time, cuts stress, and lets you focus on what actually matters: demonstrating the impact your school delivers every day.



“What I found very, very quickly with Arbor was that people were intrigued to go and find solutions themselves. Whereas before they’d be knocking on somebody else’s door saying, can you do this? It really, really changed the way we work.”



James Hodgson
*Principal Hagley
Catholic High School*

92%

agree Arbor has
transformed the
way they work

Data and insight

One place for your data, *endless ways to use it*

We've built Arbor to be the home of school data.

Everything from your student and staff information, to data from all your school apps, and even national benchmarks - is available at an instant, with features that make using it accessible for anyone.

“Now, everything is in one place: the behaviour, the communications, the assessment, the reports. It seems obvious, but the more people use the system and different parts of the system, the better they become at spotting patterns across the school — all because of the accessibility of the data.”

– Graham Cowgill

Assistant Headteacher, Ralph Thoresby School

From quick views to *deep dives*



Visual, at-a-glance dashboards

Intuitive dashboards tailored to each role instantly show you the information most relevant to you.

Flexible, painless reporting

Build custom reports in minutes and share them automatically with stakeholders on a schedule.

Bring data to life and see surprising connections

Explore your data in new ways with Live Feeds and integrations with Excel, PowerBI and Google Data Studio.

The largest live benchmarking dataset

With thousands of schools using Arbor, we've built a unique, live dataset that helps you benchmark your performance at any time - without waiting for annual DfE data drops. Our national benchmarks come within 0.1% accuracy of the DfE.

Delivered in real-time

Arbor is powered by Snowflake, the market-leading data platform - which means even the biggest data sets are crunched and loaded quickly, reliably, and you don't have to wait to analyse your data.

Our Secondary School MIS features

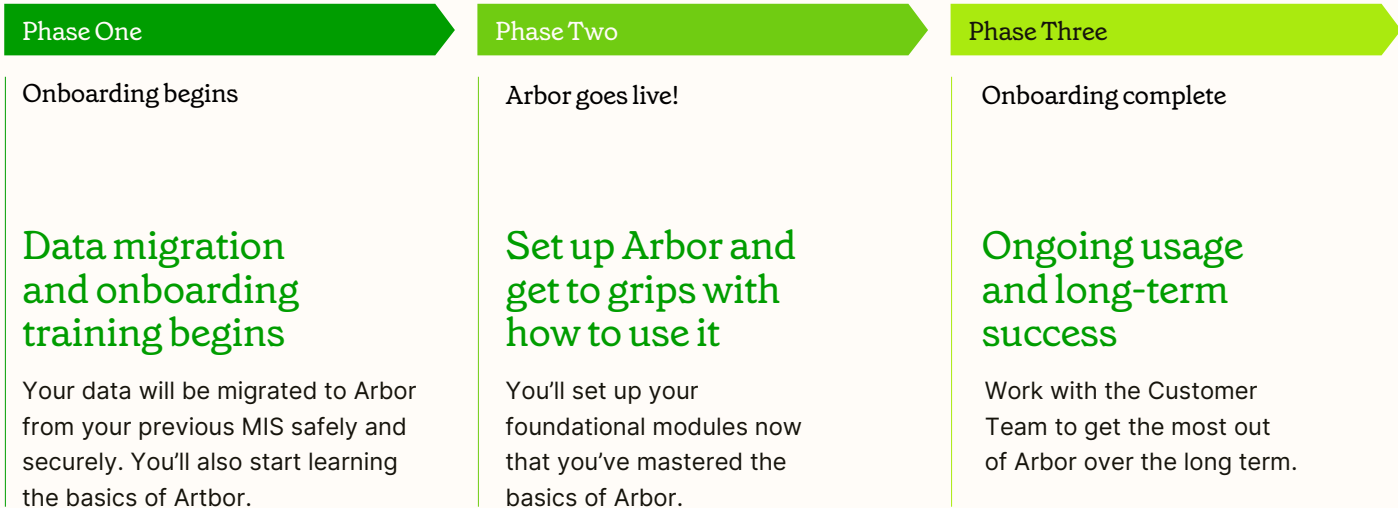
Census Complete your census quickly and easily without repeated resubmissions	Interventions Instant insight into the effectiveness of your interventions over time	Assessments Track your pupils' progress through school, both summative and formative	Communications Send and receive SMS and email, with a fully searchable inbox and outbox	Student App Give students access to their day-to-day info	Arbor Workflows • Automate your school's processes • Drag-and-drop workflow builder • See and assign tasks, like checklists or approvals • Send reminders and see where processes are getting held up • Collect data in custom forms • Ready-to-go workflow templates	Arbor AI • Ask Arbor, your collaborator and assistant • Smart Reports, including Ofsted Inspection Companion • Create an instant student summary • Draft an email, letter, or SMS • Suggest a formula • Auto Absence management (£)
Attendance Lightning-fast digital registers — no more paper	Document Manager One central place to view, search, filter, and bulk manage documents	Safeguarding Securely premissioned access to child protection	BI tool integrations Connect your Arbor data to your BI tool and view dashboards within your MIS	Google Classroom integration Sync data securely with your digital learning platform		
Calendar School, staff and pupil calendars	My Classroom Create seating plans and manage your class	Admin Automation Automatic escalation of tasks and chasing via email and SMS	Parent App Communicate with parents on the go, and take payments	Cover Automatic messaging, scheduling and management		
Report Builder Build reports using any data point in Arbor, run them on a schedule	Live link to Excel Link all your data to Excel or PowerBI via Live Feed for seamless custom reporting	Meals, clubs and trips Easily schedule activities and link to consents and payments	Payments Online and offline payments for meals, clubs and trips and manage your school shop			

How we make Arbor a *success* at your secondary school

Having migrated over 1,250 secondary schools (more than any other cloud provider!), we’re confident that our process is as easy it can be.

Get up and running in 12 weeks

Our tried-and-tested secondary school onboarding programme is designed to help your whole school move to Arbor with confidence.



98%

customer satisfaction
score for training

95%

customer satisfaction
score for support

“We felt thoroughly supported throughout the process by our Onboarding Manager - everything was very clearly communicated and transparent which helped to lift some of that anxiety that comes with any big system change.”

– David Pendlebury,
Hinchinbrooke School

Supported at every step
by our *expert* team:



Onboarding Manager

Your dedicated point of contact throughout your onboarding, making sure everything goes smoothly.



Customer Education Team

With first-hand school experience, Adam and his expert team will deliver your training, and get you using Arbor like a pro in no time.



Customer Success Team

Once you’re all set up, our team works with you to achieve long-term goals like increasing parental engagement, or using data.



Customer Support Team

For quick answers to questions about Arbor MIS, you can always get in touch with our support team, with a dedicated secondary school phone line.



The Arbor School Management Suite for *Secondary Schools*

Streamline core operations across your secondary school. Our suite of products work brilliantly with Arbor MIS to join up data and work across your school.



The UK's leading timetabling software. Fast, friendly and power-ful, it helps you tackle even the most complex timetabling challenges with confidence.

With Arbor and TimeTabler together,

you can manage last-minute changes to rooms or staffing, and create accurate reports on teacher workloads and more, straight from Arbor.

Fast, friendly and powerful

TimeTabler guides you through each step, automatically checks for clashes and recommends where lessons could go, and why - so it's east to make informed decisions.

Handles any timetabling challenge

From part-time staff, to staggered lunch breaks and split-site schools. Rapidly explore combinations to find the best fit — like working with a timetabling genius behind the scenes.

Help students study their preferred subjects

With dedicated Options software, you can collect GCSE or sixth-form subject choices, set rules to follow, and find the best solutions in the same powerful way.



A complete HR system for schools and trusts, designed by education HR specialists. Already used and loved by over 2,300 schools and MATs, it's the UK's fastest-growing HR system today.

With SAMpeople and Arbor together,

you can onboard new hires, track absences, and manage cover with no double entry. Staff data syncs instantly between the two systems, keeping it accurate and up-to-date everywhere at once.

From contracts to case-work

Give your team a dedicated tool to manage everything from absences and cases, to staff CPD and compliance, from start to finish.

Create consistent HR processes

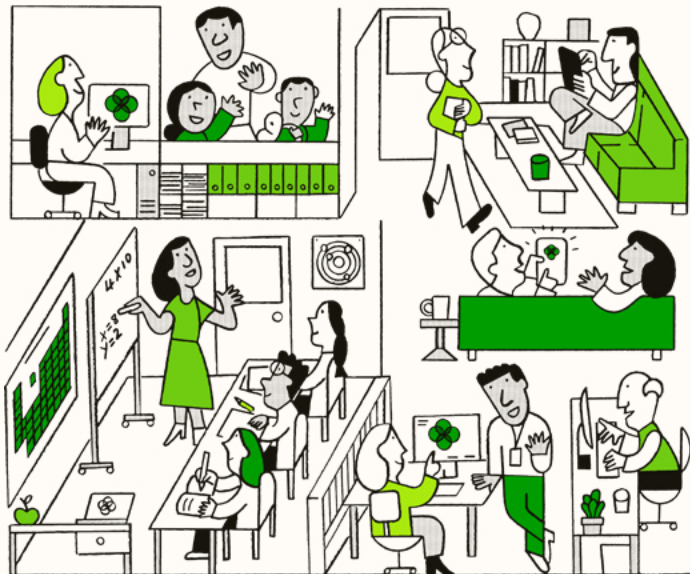
Align HR processes, policies and templates across your secondary - with education HR best-practice built-in.

Help employees self serve

SAMpeople's mobile-friendly portal gives staff a simple way to request leave, access documents, view training and submit new personal details.

The Arbor Community

Be part of something *bigger*



Great software is just the start. When you join Arbor, you join a whole community of schools who want to work better.

Join schools from across the country at ArborFest, our flagship annual conference that's packed with inspiring talks and workshops, both in-person and online.



Have your say in where we go next. We update Arbor fortnightly, listening closely and responding to what you tell us. Help us shape the UK's best MIS.

Discover and share best practice year round through Arbor HQ, our **online customer community**.

Serious about safety

We're proud not just to meet but exceed all recommended government guidelines on security standards to protect your school

Digital and physical security

- ✓ We're fully cloud-hosted in Amazon Web Services' London data centre
- ✓ We store, process and manage all personal data and backups in the UK
- ✓ We encrypt your data in Transit and At Rest using bank-grade 256-bit SSL
- ✓ Our servers are patched continuously to reduce security vulnerabilities
- ✓ We maintain physical security at every Arbor office using access control, secure keys, CCTV, 24/7 security personnel and secure perimeter doors
- ✓ We are certified to the latest PCI DSS 4.0, giving your payments the highest level of security
- ✓ We are ISO 9001 certified, showing our commitment to delivering consistent quality in our products and services

Arbor MIS and GDPR

- ✓ Role-based access control (RBAC) allows schools to manage each staff member's permissions
- ✓ Secure logins for every user. Plus, schools can choose from a range of additional security features, including password rules, enforced regular password changes, and two-factor authentication. Arbor also automatically logs out after a period of inactivity
- ✓ Easily retrieve data to comply with Subject Access Requests
- ✓ Data quality dashboard to help keep your system updated. Arbor will automatically flag records that are missing key information and potential duplicates, and the Data Retention page will help you delete unnecessary data

Our Packages

Find the right fit for your Secondary School

Core

Our best-of-breed basics:

- ✓ Attendance
- ✓ Behaviour
- ✓ Progress Tracking
- ✓ Census
- ✓ Statutory Reporting
- ✓ Clubs & Trips
- ✓ Staff Cover
- ✓ Report Cards
- ✓ Student and Staff Profiles
- ✓ Custom Reports
- ✓ Emails and SMS
- ✓ Arbor AI

Arbor Workflows features

- ✓ Two-step workflows
- ✓ Update Arbor MIS
- ✓ Workflow run manager
- ✓ Template library

Comms

Everything in Core, plus:

- ✓ Parent Portal
- ✓ Parent App
- ✓ Parents evening booking
- ✓ Student Portal
- ✓ Student App
- ✓ Meal Management
- ✓ Cashless catering integrations
- ✓ Payments
- ✓ Custom Report Cards
- ✓ Custom Behaviour Workflows

Arbor Workflows features

- ✓ Five-step workflows
- ✓ Asset library
- ✓ Custom roles
- ✓ Forms
- ✓ Tasks
- ✓ Workflow followers

Perform

Everything in Core and Comms, plus:

- ✓ Formative Assessment
- ✓ Payments Plus (inc School Shop, Apple Pay, Google Pay)
- ✓ Intervention Tracking
- ✓ Assignments
- ✓ My Classroom
- ✓ Staff Performance
- ✓ BI Viewer

Arbor Workflows features

- ✓ Multi-step workflows
- ✓ Conditional logic
- ✓ Bulk triggers
- ✓ Checklists
- ✓ Filtered views
- ✓ Folders and permissions
- ✓ Workflow managers

Book a free demo
or get in touch to
find out more

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