

Choosing the right

managed fund

Managed funds have become very popular, and there are plenty for you to choose from. To help narrow your choice to funds that are going to suit you, here are some guidelines you might find useful.

You'll want to see evidence of ***proven investment performance***.

Managed funds are medium to long term investments, so consider returns over those periods.

Flexibility is important, too. You should be able to choose from a ***range of investment options***, from conservative to higher growth, and be able to switch between them at little or no cost.

Speaking of costs, all funds have management charges and the cheapest aren't necessarily the best. Look for a ***clear explanation of all fees and charges***.

Finally, you should look for an organisation that offers ***advice***. The best advice is always face to face, so try to find an organisation where advice is always close at hand to where you live.

The 5 key factors in choosing a managed fund

1. Proven investment performance over the medium and long term
2. A range of investment options to suit your objectives
3. Flexibility to switch freely to suit your changing needs and preferences
4. Charges that are reasonable and properly spelt out
5. Expert advice close at hand

How a financial adviser can help

We've mentioned several times the need to get good advice, and it really is very important.

A good adviser will:

- take the time to find out about you and your family circumstances;
- listen and understand what's important to you – your dreams, your concerns, your goals in life;
- find out about your investment time horizon, the balance you need between income and capital growth, and your investment personality;
- recommend an effective strategy aimed at achieving your goals in a tax-effective way;
- help you choose the right investment for your situation;
- be available to answer any questions you may have and to deal with changes in your circumstances as they arise.

Most importantly they'll give you the peace of mind that you're on the way to achieving your goals. They'll make you feel comfortable about your financial future.