

Sector Briefing - June Issue 1

23 June 2026



Education Sector Briefing

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Daily intelligence for school suppliers, education leaders and sector partners.

Today's Key Developments

A concise overview of developments shaping schools, academies, trusts and the suppliers that support them.

1. Education Estates Strategy Continues to Shape School Investment Decisions

The Department for Education's Education Estates Strategy remains one of the most significant developments affecting schools, academies and trusts. The strategy sets out a long-term plan for modernising, renewing and future-proofing school buildings across England.

Why It Matters

For suppliers operating in estates, facilities management, HVAC, energy, maintenance, roofing, electrical services, sustainability and building technologies, the strategy signals continued opportunities across the education sector.

2. School Climate Resilience and Overheating Moving Up the Agenda

Climate resilience, overheating mitigation and renewal projects are increasingly becoming part of the wider school estates conversation. Schools are now considering how buildings perform during warmer weather, alongside energy efficiency and building condition.

Why It Matters

This may create growing interest in air conditioning, ventilation, indoor air quality, solar shading, energy-efficient cooling and building controls.

3. AI Adoption Continues Across Academy Trusts

Artificial intelligence continues to move up the agenda for schools and academy trusts, with growing interest in safe adoption, governance, data protection, digital literacy and staff support.

Why It Matters

Opportunities continue to grow for EdTech providers, cyber security firms, AI training providers, digital learning platforms and ICT infrastructure suppliers.

4. Procurement and Digital Buying Systems Remain a Focus

Schools and multi-academy trusts remain under pressure to demonstrate value for money while improving purchasing processes, compliance and supplier management.

Why It Matters

Suppliers offering procurement software, purchase-to-pay systems, managed procurement services and education marketplace solutions may find increasing opportunities.

Supplier Opportunity Radar

- Estates & Facilities Management
- HVAC & Ventilation
- Energy & Sustainability
- AI & Education Technology
- Cyber Security
- Procurement Solutions
- Building Maintenance & Compliance

Editorial Insight

One clear trend is emerging. Schools are no longer looking at individual purchases in isolation.

Whether the discussion is energy, AI, estates, procurement or sustainability, decision-makers are increasingly taking a longer-term strategic view.

For suppliers, the organisations most likely to gain traction are those that can demonstrate measurable outcomes, sector expertise and a clear understanding of the operational challenges facing schools, academies and trusts.

Visibility alone is no longer enough. Relevance, expertise and trusted information are becoming increasingly important factors in influencing buying decisions.

- Classroom Comfort Is Becoming a Strategic Estates Issue
- How Schools Can Prepare for Future Climate Resilience Requirements
- AI Governance: What Academy Trust Leaders Need to Know
- Why Schools Are Reviewing Procurement and Purchasing Processes
- The Growing Role of Data in School Estate Management

Published by The School Supply Network — helping suppliers stay informed about developments shaping the education sector.