Transforming School Facilities: A Call to Action

30 September 2025

School Network Supports Urgent Overhaul of Facilities Management for Safer, More Sustainable Schools

The School Network is urging schools across the country including its member schools to urgently prioritise a full transformation of Facility Management (FM) practices. Aging infrastructure, poor maintenance, and outdated systems are directly affecting the health, safety, and wellbeing of students, staff, and the broader school community. A shift toward more efficient, sustainable, and well-managed environments is essential—and needs to happen now.

Why Comprehensive Facilities Management Matters

Effective FM spans every aspect of school operations— infrastructure, safety, sustainability, accessibility, and compliance. Critical challenges include:

- **Aging Infrastructure:** Outdated HVAC, plumbing, electrical, and structural systems lead to disruptions, safety concerns, and costly repairs.
- **Health and Safety Risks**: Poor air quality, Mould, and neglected maintenance threaten student and staff health, contributing to absenteeism and reduced academic performance.
- **Energy and Environmental Inefficiency:** High energy use and lack of

sustainable practices increase costs and environmental impact, misaligning with modern standards.

- **Space and Accessibility Issues:** Inefficient layouts and non-compliant accessibility features limit equitable education and operational efficiency.
- **Security and Emergency Preparedness Gaps:** Outdated security systems and inadequate emergency protocols leave schools vulnerable.
- **Regulatory Compliance Risks:** Failure to comply with local authority regulations, national standards, or statutory requirements could lead to fines, legal consequences, or disruption to school operations.
- **A Collaborative Call to Action:** The School Network encourages schools to act swiftly and collaboratively to transform facilities management:

1. **Assess All FM Areas**: Conduct thorough audits of infrastructure, safety, energy efficiency, accessibility, and security to identify priorities.
2. **Upgrade Infrastructure**: Invest in energy-efficient HVAC, smart lighting, water-saving systems, and accessible facilities to enhance safety and reduce costs.
3. **Adopt Proactive Maintenance:** Move to preventive maintenance using data-driven tools to minimize disruptions and extend asset lifespans.
4. **Strengthen Safety and Security:** Upgrade surveillance, conduct regular emergency drills, and ensure compliance with health and safety regulations.
5. **Optimise Learning Spaces**: Reconfigure facilities to improve accessibility, accommodate growth, and enhance educational environments.
6. **Leverage FM Technology:** Use facilities management software to streamline maintenance, track energy use, and ensure compliance.
7. **Engage the Community:** Partner with parents, teachers, and local organizations to secure funding and support for FM improvements.

The Risks of Delay

Postponing action could lead to:

- Health and safety risks for students and staff.
- Rising repair costs and strained budgets.
- Declining enrolment due to outdated facilities.
- Financial and legal penalties from non-compliance.

Act Now: Access Our Step-by-Step Guide and FM Experts

The School Network is here to support your transformation with direct resources:

- **Request Our Step-by-Step FM Guide:** Request our comprehensive guide at to assess needs, plan improvements, and implement changes tailored to schools.
- **Connect with FM Experts:** Contact our facilities management specialists directly for personalised guidance and consultations.

A Path Forward Together

Through our media platform, schools can access information on funding/grants, partnerships, and training to support FM transformations. Start today to ensure safe, sustainable, and modern learning environments for all.

For more information, to request the step-by-step guide, or to speak with a facilities management expert, please contact us.