

Transforming School Facilities: A Call to Action

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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 Aging infrastructure, poor maintenance, and outdated systems are directly affecting the health, safety, and wellbeing of students, staff, and the broader school community.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- **Aging Infrastructure:** Outdated HVAC, plumbing, electrical, and structural systems lead to disruptions, safety concerns, and costly repairs.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- **Security and Emergency Preparedness Gaps:** Outdated security systems and inadequate emergency protocols leave schools vulnerable.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.