

Best Value Purchasing

The Centre for Education Management (CEM) is recognised as the leading provider of support services to schools.

Our culture is centred on the belief that schools become powerful, sustainable learning communities when their staff are informed about current issues and developed professionally.

CEM provides the information and training that enables effective decision-making at school level and helps people develop to their full potential.

We deliver our services through a variety of media – courses, conferences, telephone support, consultancy and publications. We believe in enabling schools to maximise their available resources and ensure their staff to grow in ability and confidence.

Our integrated range of services helps you and your staff to make the difference to your school.

Best value purchasing from best practice solutions

Every school must be certain that they secure best value from their purchasing decisions. CEM has the expertise to make sure they do.

CEM has a decade of experience in advising schools on best value principles. To make sure that every penny really does count, we provide access to highly advantageous banking and insurance schemes as well as offering hands-on purchasing support.

Are you confident that you are getting best value from your current suppliers? Reviewing existing contracts is a sensitive and time-consuming task. A CEM contracts health check gives heads, senior staff and governors the peace of mind that comes from knowing all your contracts have been subjected to a rigorous independent assessment. We will review your existing contracts, calculate a best-value score using OfSTED methodology and then benchmark your costs against national data.

Many schools are particularly keen to review their catering contracts. A CEM review will use catering experts who are members of ethical bodies and, most importantly, are independent of any catering provider.

It is important that the tender process for new contracts is conducted with due diligence. How do you really compare the benefits of out-sourced services with in-house services? CEM provides a full tender management service for new contracts. This service will advise on best value, support staff through the tender process and compare differing costs of provision. On all contracts issues we use our expertise gained nationally to ensure that you get best value locally.

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Asset management planning is another new skill that heads and senior staff are expected to learn. A complete asset management plan must be integrated into the school development plan, log all the school's assets and address replacement, maintenance and capital programmes. Compiling the plan will require a detailed understanding of the capital funding regime that applies to your school, how to bid for capital funding and how to manage leasing contracts legally. Our experienced consultants can undertake this work on your behalf. The end result will be a complete asset management plan that is specific to the needs and aspirations of your school.

Insurance and banking solutions with schools in mind

Many schools are now obliged to make their own arrangements for insurance cover. CEM has created highly competitive schemes that give schools access to educational insurance and deposit banking.

Education has become an increasingly litigious environment. And worst of all, many cases are brought years after the pupil has left your school. Governors can find themselves being held liable for mistakes made by staff, even if they were not aware of them at the time. Schools can no longer rely on this insurance being provided elsewhere on their behalf. Public Liability insurance that is specific to your school has become a must.

Buildings insurance can also be arranged and established through a scheme negotiated by CEM. It is straightforward, and premiums are easy to calculate.

By placing your funds in a CEM Phoenix deposit account you can enjoy a competitive, high rate of interest that is guaranteed at 0.5% below Base Rate. Every pound you put in a Phoenix Account will work harder for your school – interest is calculated daily and paid monthly. Even better, there are no transaction charges. And you can still have direct access to your funds whenever you want.

With support from CEM, schools can be confident that they are making informed and expert purchasing decisions that are in the best interests of their pupils.