

Welcome

This is the second issue of the School Estate Bulletin which we trust you will find useful and informative. We will share updates and advice regarding the school estate and we remind Academies and Diocesan schools to seek advice from their Responsible Bodies where appropriate.

Should you require support or advice regarding your school premise then please do not hesitate to contact the SAST team and we will be happy to assist.

Capital Programme

The Children's Services Capital Programme and draft School Asset Management Plan (AMP) 2018/2021 was recently approved by Cabinet Member. The Schools AMP rolls forward a three year plan for the improvement of the school estate, addressing sufficiency, suitability and condition. This detailed review of the school estate helps to inform investment priorities which is particularly important given the overall reduction in schools capital funding since 2010. The Schools AMP 2018/2021 will be shared with all schools following its presentation at Schools Forum Capital Work Group.

Recent projects include Early Years schemes at **Ulverley** and **Yew Tree** and expansions at **Shirley Heath**, **Sharmans Cross** and **Reynolds Cross** to increase accommodation, meeting demand for places. The secondary ARC at **Alderbrook** is now complete and the expansion to **Tudor Grange Academy** and redevelopment of **Yorkwood Primary** are well underway. The next major projects currently at feasibility stage are improvements to **Olton** and **Valley Primary** Schools.



Tree Management

We recently wrote to all schools regarding the importance of maintaining and managing trees within the school campus.

We refer you to the **Forestry Commission Practice Guide: Hazards From Trees** which sets out the process for identifying potential hazards caused by trees and how these risks should be appropriately managed. We would recommend the following process as part of your site management arrangements:

Step 1- School to identify trees within their site and classify into 'zones' depending on proximity to people and property and the associated hazards. This is a key point of the risk assessment process as more onus will be placed on trees that are considered in high risk zones.

Step 2- Undertake risk assessments and seek specialist advice concerning high risk trees in high risk zones.

Step 3 – Adopt tree specific management plans, in collaboration with competent arboriculturalists. This will comprise of a written report of the tree inspected along with a risk assessment rating to ensure the school is aware of any hazards and possible subsequent work that is required.

Step 4 - Annual inspection by Site Manager to be documented with photographs. Please note this is in addition to any specific tree management plans and competent advice should be sought where appropriate.

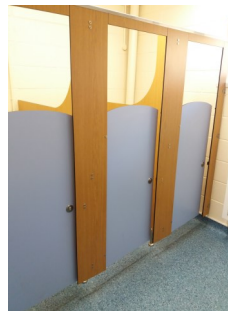
Step 5 – SAST to undertake annual site 'walkabout' as part of a wider estate review.

Competent advice can be sought through suppliers listed in the new framework for **School Grounds Maintenance**.

Landlord Approval

Since we have introduced the Landlord Approval process we are pleased to see that many of the schools are seeking our advice and approval for schemes affecting the premise, such as installing partition walls, toilet refurbishments and window replacements.

Schemes where approval has been granted include **Peterbrook Primary** new Infant Hall floor, **Dorridge Primary** refurbishment of KS1 toilets and we have recently approved a scheme at **Haslucks Green Junior** for window replacement works.



If you are planning any schemes within your own school, please ensure you contact SAST at the earliest stage.

schoolassetssupport@solihull.gov.uk

Procurement Procedures

We remind all schools of their responsibilities around procurement and refer you to the schools Rules for Contracts. <http://intranet/Teams/CorporateProcurementService/RulesforContract.aspx#87071018-schools>

Should you have any procurement queries, Chris Lowe, Category Manager for Schools can be contacted at christopher.lowe@solihull.gov.uk

Carbon Management

To support the Council priority to reduce Carbon Emissions by 2021 we are working with colleagues to identify a strategic approach across the school estate. Corporately SMBC have committed to the Emissions Reduction Pledge 2020 and we recognise the role of engaging with different Responsible Bodies to enable schools to support this.

We are currently exploring a feasibility into the installation of Solar PV on a selection of schools where their location and orientation would provide the greatest benefit.

The Energy and Greener Schools Celebration Event was well attended with schools sharing case studies and best practice on energy saving measures they have implemented. More information on this can be found at <http://www.solgrid.org.uk/education/support-services/education-for-sustainable-development/>

The first of 4 Less CO2 workshops has been delivered with 11 schools in attendance. Schools participating in this programme will receive free Energy Audits which help to identify development plans and projects.