



**STAY SAFE, SAVE MONEY,
ENHANCE LEARNING**

EC HARRIS
BUILT ASSET
CONSULTANCY

HELPING SCHOOLS TO PLAN, CREATE AND OPERATE BETTER AND SAFER LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS MORE COST EFFECTIVELY

From our experience working directly with hundreds of schools, we know that you want safe and affordable premises that support teaching and learning.

We also recognise that with ever-increasing legislative, management and financial pressures heaped on leadership teams, this is becoming harder than ever to achieve. Schools tell us that their biggest concerns are:

- The complexity and extent of statutory compliance, health and safety, and legal responsibilities
- Reduced levels of capital funding - trying to achieve more for less
- Rising energy costs.

EC Harris has developed a robust approach to help you plan, create and operate better and safer learning environments more cost-effectively. Ultimately this helps improve outcomes for learners, staff and communities.



THE EC HARRIS WAY

EC Harris has worked directly with schools for over 40 years, across 40 local authorities, 20 dioceses, numerous clusters and multi-sponsors of academies.

Our Schools Direct team has delivered over 2000 projects over the last 10 years and annually delivers projects worth over £30 million in revenue and minor capital expenditure.

We are currently engaged with hundreds of schools and the Schools Direct team has been nominated for the 'consultant of the year' award by *Education Investor* magazine.

We take a personal approach, assigning an experienced consultant to your school to make sure we fully understand your needs and educational objectives.

We then draw from our range of Schools Direct services, working with you to develop a bespoke solution, that will:

Keep you safe and legal - Enabling you to meet your responsibilities and statutory obligations in owning, occupying, and operating school premises.

Save you money - Driving efficiencies from your premises, identifying revenue-generating opportunities and making sure you get the best value from service providers.

Enhance teaching and learning - Aligning your buildings and grounds to your educational objectives through development planning and delivering projects that provide excellent facilities, which are sustainable for future generations.



OUR SCHOOLS DIRECT SERVICES

Our approach is completely flexible - schools draw only on the services they need - and is delivering significant results; generating cashable savings, whilst enabling teachers to concentrate on the areas where they are really needed. The following pages detail how we can help...



ARE YOU SAFE, COMPLIANT AND LEGAL?

Are you meeting your responsibilities and statutory obligations in owning, occupying and operating school premises?

Keeping you safe and legal

The safety of your learners and staff is of paramount importance. EC Harris work with you to provide solutions that give you peace of mind and provide:

- A safe and compliant environment that remains operational
- All your certification, testing and asset data is stored in one place
- Regular news, 'real time' communication/training on legal obligations
- A 'Premises Healthcheck' which gives you a clear picture of the degree to which your school is safe and compliant.





Statutory Compliance Testing

Schools have an obligation to undertake compliance testing of plant and equipment. EC Harris can provide a single point solution to deliver testing and maintenance services, reducing the administration burden and providing piece of mind that all your statutory responsibilities, with regards to assets, are completed.

To be compliant with the latest regulations reduces risk and ultimately provides a safer environment for staff and learners. Services include: portable appliance testing; legionella testing; roller shutter maintenance; asbestos management; boiler servicing; accessibility audit; gas soundness; gym equipment testing and fire risk assessments. Our 'Premises Healthcheck' will identify where you are compliant or at risk. We will then explain to you the most effective way of reducing these risks.



School Management Information Portal

EC Harris has developed an online Schools Management Information Portal that provides one secure place for schools to hold important information on assets, data, policies and statutory compliance. This accessible website, enables schools to easily demonstrate their compliance to the relevant authorities.

This tool also features an 'ask the expert' support service, providing you with advice on your assets and facilities at any time. Education sector news updates are notified through the portal - including changes to education legislation and policy. But most importantly, the tool alerts you when contract or certification renewals are required.



Health and Safety Support

We take a supportive and holistic approach to health and safety that helps mitigate risks in a realistic way, allowing school staff and children to have the freedom and flexibility to teach and learn in 'real world' live environments.

We are able to provide your designated 'competent person' for health and safety with the advice and support to inspire them in the proactive management of your school. Services include: IOSH managing safely training; health and safety support service and accident investigation.

ARE YOUR PREMISES OPERATING EFFICIENTLY?

Are you driving efficiencies from your premises and getting the best value from contractors and service providers?

Saving you money

To unlock value from your school premises you need to identify and drive efficiencies from your facilities and consider all the potential revenue-generating opportunities. EC Harris will work with you to identify and implement deliverable solutions that:

- Deliver energy savings
- Generate cashable savings from your statutory compliance process
- Drive efficiencies from facilities management providers
- Reduce your administration burden.





Energy Advice and Management

Overall, public organisations have to reduce their carbon footprint and improve energy efficiency as we move towards Government targets. Our sustainability experts work with schools to help improve their energy efficiency and generate cashable savings.

This process starts with a utilities, energy and sustainability audit, that shows how your premises are currently performing and identifies any areas for improvement. Our experts then use cost benchmark data to outline the anticipated size of the savings that can be made in specific areas and offer practical solutions to achieve them.



Facilities Management

In an environment of reduced funding, schools are increasingly looking to find efficiencies in their facilities management solution, from their cleaning, catering, caretaking, grounds maintenance and building maintenance services. When schools come together in Federations and Trusts they can readily achieve efficiencies as a purchasing group.

EC Harris manages FM provision for a number of public sector bodies. We put together our skills in procurement, our knowledge of FM providers and our FM cost data with our understanding of the unique school operating environment to create efficiencies and to provide service solutions which better support teaching and learning.



Funding Applications

Our Schools Direct consultants include Grant Aid Administrators and funding experts who constantly keep updated of current funding opportunities for schools.

Our experts can help you secure external grant funding for projects and administer the cash-flow and drawdown of monies on your behalf. Specific services include: capital funding applications; Grant Aid applications; cash-flow forecasts.



Furniture, Equipment and ICT Solutions

Our equipping team and ICT advisers can enable you to run your school facilities flexibly and more cost effectively. We will work with you to develop your ICT vision and furniture and equipment layouts/requirements to enhance teaching and learning. An educationally-led approach will also help to enable anytime anywhere learning.

We will also help you to generate significant cashable savings by driving procurement efficiencies by leveraging economies-of-scale across schools or other public sector organisations for FF&E and ICT purchases.

DO YOUR PREMISES EFFECTIVELY SUPPORT TEACHING AND ENHANCE LEARNING?

Are your buildings and grounds aligned to your educational objectives? Are projects delivering excellent facilities that are sustainable for future generations?

Enhancing teaching and learning

A clear premises development plan - underpinned by assured project delivery - is crucial to aligning school estates with educational objectives and enhancing learning. EC Harris will work with you to deliver:

- Better, more agile learning environments
- The best possible educational assets (buildings, grounds, furniture and equipment, ICT) to support teaching and enhance learning.





Premises Development Planning

EC Harris will help you to determine and develop the right strategy, plans and processes for the management and development of your premises to meet your educational objectives. Working with you, we will develop an asset management plan with detailed information on the condition, suitability and sufficiency of your assets. We will then produce a phased premises development plan that delivers a strategy aligned to your education vision, aspirations, needs and wider local objectives.

Our team will enable optimal space utilisation, incorporate sustainable solutions and maximise the use of your buildings, including out of hours through Extended Schools, Extended Services and Community Use.



Building Project Delivery

We will help you effectively deliver your capital investment, whatever the funding route, so that improvement works are managed and delivered in a professional manner that does not adversely affect teaching and learning but enhances it. A single point of contact will be assigned to manage the project, acting as your agent in procuring and monitoring Building Contractors to drive best value.

We will also provide solutions relating to the maintenance, repair and alteration of buildings; assessing physical, operational and financial risks and designing, procuring and delivering projects that support teaching and learning.



Building Maintenance Management

One of the challenges for Schools is dealing with planned and unplanned maintenance, in an efficient and cost effective way. Broken boilers and pipe bursts impact school operation and budgets, our building maintenance service aims to minimise the impact.

We provide a building maintenance management service, managing and planning remedial works, and directing the work of contractors. It is designed to reduce the burden on the Head Teacher and School, and provide peace of mind.

Our team procure, manage and monitor the works, and the performance of our preferred supplier contractors. We provide a 24 hour Helpdesk to meet any needs and manage the orders and payments, reducing paperwork. Our contractor rates have been competitively tendered, contractual arrangements fixed both to ensure service, quality and value for money.

OUR EXPERIENCE

KEEPING YOU SAFE AND LEGAL

Birmingham Catholic Partnership and the Archdiocese of Liverpool - Statutory Compliance Testing and Helpdesk Service

EC Harris worked with the Archdiocese of Liverpool and the Birmingham Catholic Primary Partnership to successfully deliver Statutory Compliance Testing and provide helpdesk services.

Prior to our engagement, the schools felt that they were exposed to unnecessary levels of risk. Following the work we undertook, all schools became compliant in meeting their legal responsibilities, resulting in safer learning environments for all.

“From feeling exposed, I am now delighted that I have my Statutory Compliance testing responsibilities covered by EC Harris. It has taken a burden off my shoulders, allowing me to focus on the children, and supported me in my safeguarding responsibilities.” **St Oswald’s Catholic Infant School**

North West Schools - IOSH Managing Safely Course

EC Harris ran a bespoke four day IOSH training course, which was delivered by our qualified consultants to help schools manage health and safety more proactively.

“I found that this course raised my awareness of all matters relating to safety in my school. I returned to school each week and saw ways I could contribute to making it a safer place for staff, children, parents and visitors.”

Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School



ENHANCING TEACHING AND LEARNING

Trinity Catholic Primary School - Building Project Delivery

The Trinity Catholic Primary School opened following the amalgamation of three smaller primary schools. The school serves an area of severe social deprivation, with high levels of children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The school facilities were outdated and a new school was planned. In the construction phase of the project there were two main issues on site, these involved the discovery of over 500 cubic metres of contaminated land and serious problems with the electricity mains connections. EC Harris worked with the relevant stakeholders to overcome these problems and the school building was completed on budget and within the contract period of just 56 weeks - a considerable achievement.

Through value engineering, the team was also able to accommodate a variation in the design, adding an extension for the provision of extended services. This additional area allows the school to provide before and after school clubs, which has helped to improve learning outcomes and promote a sense of community.

St Mary's CE Primary School, West Derby - Development Planning and Building Project Delivery

EC Harris prepared a Development Plan for St Mary's Primary School, which sought to transform a 1970's school building that had not received any significant capital investment for around 30 years.

The school has since annually obtained capital funding for different phases of the plan. This has resulted in over ten projects over the last seven years.

The combined impact of the projects has transformed the school into a modern and effective learning environment that supports excellent delivery of the curriculum and has directly helped the school raise standards.

In effect the school is considered new, but this has been achieved at a fraction of the cost of a complete new-build.

"You have been brilliant over all these years, transforming school into a place where children have the best opportunity to learn and to thrive." **St Mary's CE Primary School**





CONTACT US...

To find out more on how EC Harris can help you to plan, create and operate better and safer learning environments more cost effectively, email schoolsdirect@echarris.com, or contact:



Marcus Fagent

Partner, National Lead for Schools Direct

m +44 (0)7785 763 078

e marcus.fagent@echarris.com



Richard A Jones

Associate, Lead for Schools Direct in the North and South West

m +44 (0)7712 679 004

e richarda.jones@echarris.com



Andrew Dutton

Associate, Lead for Schools Direct in London and the South East

m +44 (0)7740 166 457

e andrew.dutton@echarris.com



Kate Beech

Associate, Lead for Schools Direct in the Midlands

m +44 (0)7826 535 423

e kate.beech@echarris.com

w echarris.com/education

EC Harris LLP

ECHQ

34 York Way

London

N1 9AB

t +44 (0)20 7812 2000

f +44 (0)20 7812 2001