

Continuing to Work with Link Education through Value Match

Procurement information for Academy Trusts and Multi-Academy Trusts

As education staffing procurement arrangements evolve, Link Education wants to make it as straightforward as possible for academies and Multi-Academy Trusts to continue accessing the staff they need through an appropriate procurement route.

Link Education Limited is an appointed supplier on the Value Match Managed Sourcing Service (MSS). Our appointment covers recruitment services, personnel placement and the supply of personnel, including temporary staff, across London and the South East of England. The current appointment runs from 1 June 2025 to 31 May 2031.

Link Education and Value Match

The Value Match MSS provides an established managed sourcing route through which eligible contracting authorities can procure services from appointed suppliers. Depending on the applicable requirements, customers may procure through further competition or direct award. Any resulting Call-Off Order is a separate contract between the customer and Link Education.

Link Education is not a direct supplier on RM6376. Our appointment to the Value Match Managed Sourcing Service provides a separate procurement route through which eligible Trusts may contract with Link Education, subject to the Trust confirming that the proposed arrangement meets the applicable procurement requirements.

From September 2026, academy trusts are required to use RM6376 for agency supply staffing unless they secure an alternative framework or contract that is in line with the Procurement Act 2023 and does not exceed the rates available through RM6376. Link Education and Value Match can work with the Trust's procurement team to establish the appropriate contracting route and provide the information required to support that assessment.

Each Trust remains responsible for confirming that its chosen procurement route is appropriate for its own governance, procurement requirements and circumstances.

What this means for your Trust

If your academy or Trust is reviewing its agency arrangements, we can work with your HR, Finance, Procurement or Senior Leadership team, together with Value Match where required, to establish the relevant requirements and support the contracting process.

- Your existing Link Education contact can continue to discuss staffing requirements and candidate availability with you.
- We can provide the Link Education information and documentation required for supplier due diligence and onboarding.
- We can liaise with the appropriate Trust contact and Value Match to support the procurement and contracting steps.
- Once the required arrangements are in place, Link Education can continue supporting your schools with temporary, long-term and permanent staffing requirements.

How Link Education will support you

We can provide proportionate evidence and information to support your Trust review, including where applicable:

- safeguarding, safer recruitment and candidate-vetting assurance;
- insurance, data protection, information security and governance evidence;
- commercial information and agreed staffing terms;
- candidate-specific vetting and safeguarding confirmation;
- assignment and booking documentation; and
- ongoing safeguarding escalation, AWR, compliance monitoring and service controls.

Safeguarding, compliance and professional assurance

Safeguarding and safer recruitment remain at the heart of Link Education's service. Our recruitment, safeguarding, compliance and operational arrangements are supported by a comprehensive suite of controlled policies, procedures, forms and operational documents maintained within our Controlled Document Master (CDM).

The CDM is our single source of truth for current controlled documentation and supports safer recruitment, candidate vetting and clearance, safeguarding, assignment documentation, data protection, Agency Workers Regulations, complaints and escalation, business continuity, compliance monitoring and internal audit.

Link Education is a REC Corporate Member and holds REC Audited Education status. Relevant current safeguarding, recruitment, compliance and governance evidence can be provided as part of Trust onboarding, safeguarding review or procurement due diligence.

The same Link Education relationship

The procurement route sits behind the service relationship; it does not need to change the day-to-day support your schools receive from Link Education. Your usual consultant remains your contact for staffing requirements, bookings and candidate availability. Procurement, framework or Trust-wide arrangements can be referred directly to our Compliance team.

Before assuming that your Trust can no longer use Link Education, please speak to us.

We will be happy to establish the requirements that apply to your Trust and explore the appropriate Value Match route with you.

Contact

Paula Lazarus

Chief Operating Officer & Designated Safeguarding Lead

paula.lazarus@link-education.co.uk

01689 878 565