

Tendering and Procurement Policy

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Tendering & Procurement Policy

Quotation And Tendering

The minimum required numbers of tenders or quotations from appropriate contractors for a given estimated value of contract are:

- Above £1,000 and up to £2,500 two oral quotations;
- Above £2,500 (£5,000 for works) and up to £10,000, three written quotations;
- Above £10,000 and up to £50,000, three formal quotations to be submitted in writing by a specified date and time and based on a written specification and evaluation criteria;
- Above £50,000 and up to EU thresholds, four tenders;

Over EU thresholds, five tenders.

The values are for single items or groups of items, which must not be disaggregated artificially.

The sterling equivalents of EU thresholds (net of VAT) are £181,302 from 1/1/18 for supplies and Part A services and £4,551,413 from 1/1/18 for works. The sterling equivalents are changed on 1 January of each even-dated year.

For tenders expected to exceed EU thresholds, advertisements must also be placed in OJEU (the Official Journal of the European Union) and must follow EU procurement requirements with particular regard to be given to the timescale for such tenders.

Procedures

All purchases with a value greater than £50,000 must be put out to formal tender. The following procedures must be followed in such circumstances:

1. A specification will be prepared, authorised by the chair of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer and sent to at least three suppliers. It is anticipated that for any major building works of a value greater than £5,000 the services of an architect would be engaged to deal with the handling of specifications and suitability to tender.
2. Where appropriate, the suppliers invited to tender should be drawn from an approved list or from those agreed with the architect. Otherwise, invitations to submit tenders will be advertised in local newspapers and trade journals if appropriate. The invitations to tender will include:
 - (a) an introduction/background to the project;
 - (b) the scope and objectives of the project;
 - (c) any technical requirements;

- (d) implementation details for the project;
- (e) the terms and conditions of the tender; and
- (f) the form and date of response to the academy, or in the case of building works, to the architect or quantity surveyor.

3. All replies, if to the school, should be addressed to the Business Operations Director in a plain sealed envelope marked 'Tender' to reach him/her by a specified date. All replies must be kept sealed until that date and passed to the chair of the relevant committee.

4. All tenders will be opened at the same time and details of the contractor, quotation and any other details recorded at the time of opening,

5. No contractor will be allowed to amend the tender after the time fixed for receipt.

6. The Business Operations Director will open a separate correspondence file for each tender which will contain copies of all correspondence or other relevant information.

7. For purchases up to £50,000, provided the expenditure is included in the budget, the decision as to which tender to accept will be taken by the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Business Operations Director and the Chair of the Board of Directors.

8. For purchases exceeding £50,000, provided the expenditure has been budgeted for, a decision will be recommended by the Board of Directors and will be minuted.

9. Where expenditure is not included in the budget or anticipated expenditure exceeds the budget allocation, the decision as to which tender to accept will be taken by the Board of Directors.

10. The reasons for accepting a particular tender must be documented, especially if it is decided to accept other than the lowest tender. All decisions will be reported to the Board of Directors.

ACCEPTANCE OF TENDER

The following points will be considered when deciding which tender to accept:

1. The overall price and the individual items or services which make up that price.
2. Whether there are any 'hidden' costs; that is additional costs which the academy will have to incur to obtain a satisfactory product.
3. Whether there is scope for negotiation, while being fair to all tenderers.
4. The qualifications and experience of the supplier, including membership of professional associations.

5. Compliance with the technical requirements laid down by the school.
6. Whether it is possible to obtain certificates of quantity.
7. The supplier's own quality control procedure; pre sales demonstrations, after sales service and, for building works, a six month defects period and insurance guarantees.
8. The financial status of the supplier.
9. References from other establishments.
10. Understanding & compliance with Health & safety, CDM regulations and Child Protection issues related to working on a school site

In the case of building works, where the tendering process is being carried out by the architect or quantity surveyor, they will be responsible for checking the documents of the lowest tender before making a recommendation to the Trust.

Once a tender is accepted an order should be issued immediately to the supplier in the normal way.

The successful contractor should be informed that the school is a NON SMOKING site

The Schools' Funding Agreement should be considered when applying this policy