



Building Schools for the Future

What is BSF?

Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is the largest strategic capital investment programme for schools in over 50 years and the most ambitious scheme of its kind in the world. It will see every single state secondary school in England rebuilt or renewed over the next 15 – 20 years, alongside unprecedented investment in ICT, creating schools truly fit for the 21st century.

BSF is much more than simply a buildings programme. It is a huge commitment that will help deliver the Every Child Matters agenda, elements of the Children's Plan, and provides an opportunity to transform education by delivering schools that our young people, our teachers and our local communities deserve.

Beyond bricks and mortar, the exciting opportunity that we have through BSF is to transform education for millions of young people, providing environments and facilities that will help every single one of them unlock the talents that they have, regardless of their background.

It is a programme that provides teachers with a world-class work place in which they too feel valued and inspired, and able to develop their skills further. And it is a programme that roots schools in the centre of their communities so that they become hubs that help revitalise whole areas and provide a physical means of joining up local services.

Through BSF, all secondary schools will receive a significant increase in funding per pupil for ICT, helping ensure that they are well equipped to join the knowledge economy.

ICT infrastructure and new ways of using technology across the curriculum means that learning is no longer confined to the four walls of the classroom. BSF is therefore challenging teachers and students to explore new learning styles and respond to the personalised learning agenda.

The Children's Plan, the Government's 10-year vision published in December 2007, highlighted the role that the BSF programme is playing in making schools hubs of the local communities they serve. It stressed that all new school building projects should consider co-locating other services for families on the same site, including health clinics, social care, advice, welfare services and police.

The plan also sets targets for all new schools to be zero carbon by 2016, with around 200 schools across England benefiting from a share of £110 million over the next three years with the intention of reducing carbon emissions by around 60 per cent through energy efficiency and renewable energy measures.

About Partnerships for Schools

Partnerships for Schools (Pfs) is the joint venture company that was set up in 2004 to deliver the BSF programme. In March 2006, we also took on responsibility for delivering the Academies programme, integrating delivery into BSF where possible.

Pfs works closely with each local authority and the private sector market to ensure that each area's strategy delivers schools that engage and inspire pupils, teachers and the wider local communities.

BSF: vital statistics

- Every state secondary school in England – around 3,500 in total – will be rebuilt or refurbished over the duration of the programme, benefiting around 3.3 million young people and thousands of teachers.
- As well as funding focusing on the physical learning environment, BSF also provides a step-change in funding available for the virtual learning environment, to the sum of £1675 per pupil.
- 20 local authorities have now selected their private sector partner for BSF and in so doing have signed contracts worth £2.5bn that will see nearly 150 schools rebuilt or refurbished.
- More than 70 local authorities are now engaged in BSF.
- The first brand-new BSF school, the Bristol Brunel Academy (pictured overleaf), opened in September 2007, on time and on budget; it was also the first school to be delivered by a Local Education Partnership (LEP).
- The first London BSF school to open, The Michael Tippett School in Lambeth (pictured above), for children with special educational needs, was opened in April 2008.
- As at June 2008, 13 BSF schools are open; around 50 are due to open in the 2008/09 financial year, ramping up to around 200 new or remodelled schools every year thereafter.
- Every local authority in the country will be engaged in the BSF programme by 2015.



Making a real difference to pupils, teachers and communities

To make the most of this scale of capital investment, it is critical that we do not simply replace the existing schools estate with new versions of the same old schools. Teaching and learning have changed significantly and will continue to evolve in the coming years and decades and it is essential that our new schools are flexible enough to reflect this changing practice. **Design** therefore plays a central role in delivering transformational schools under BSF.

Providing dedicated spaces for arts, dance, drama, music and sports can have an extremely positive effect on young people – particularly those who were previously disaffected and disengaged - drawing them into learning and helping them develop a greater sense of self-worth. Design can also help address anti-social behaviours in schools, through enabling passive supervision, removing dark dead-end corridors and through thoughtful design of toilet blocks, long recognised as a haven for bullies.

BSF also delivers a step-change in the funding made available for ICT. This marks an end to the “chalk and talk” method of teaching, replacing it with an approach characterised by “anytime, any place, anywhere”. The innovative use of ICT not only engages young people in new ways of learning, but it also encourages teachers to stretch themselves in identifying new ways of teaching.

Schools are thought to contribute to around 15% of public sector carbon emissions and so ensuring that our new schools under BSF are **sustainable** is essential. As well as reducing the carbon footprint of each school, this is also important in terms of increasing environmental awareness amongst our young people so that they make changes to the way they live their lives outside of the school gates.

All secondary schools are required to become ‘**extended schools**’ by 2010, offering wider services and access to local communities. As well as making classrooms, spaces and sports facilities available to the wider community, this also means integrating wider local services within the school, for example healthcare services and community policing. BSF therefore helps reposition schools as hubs for the whole community, re-energising and regenerating local areas.

The procurement model for BSF – known as the **Local Education Partnership (LEP)** – also helps facilitate a joined up approach to local services. The LEP establishes a ten year exclusive relationship between a Local Authority and its private sector partner and, subject to performance, offers a stream of projects as opposed to a one-off single investment. This provides opportunities in terms of wider local investments relating to primary schools, healthcare, housing and whole regeneration strategies. This move away from procuring services in silos reflects the way that people live their lives and delivers real and tangible regeneration benefits to the whole community.

Contact information

To find out more about Building Schools for the Future, Partnerships for Schools, or the progress of BSF projects, visit the PFS website:

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