



The Ursuline Schools in Ilford

We are a Catholic Secondary Academy and an Independent Preparatory School located in North East London that had previously been catering in-house. The increasing complexities of running an in-house service to meet ever changing food legislation coupled with the need to purchase food ingredients more competitively meant that the school wished to seek a commercial caterer to take over the running of the catering service.

At the time of the decision to appoint a commercial caterer the school was undertaking extensive building works which included a total rebuild and refurbishment of the kitchen and dining areas. An OJEU compliant tender was managed by Educo with school specific and detailed service specifications identified. The tender of the catering contract was purposely designed to seek financial investment into the school from the appointed catering contractor to assist with the financial demands of the building works. Ordinarily, Educo suggest a catering contract of between 3 and 5 years, but in this instance to secure the larger financial investment required, a 7 year contract was tendered. The caterer agreed to the use of the Educo best practice Catering Agreement which secures the school all the relevant protections.

The time taken between the school making the decision to tender the catering service and the physical appointment of the caterer took about 4 months. Not only was an innovative and successful caterer appointed but the school secured a substantial and meaningful investment to assist with their building project.

EDUCO have physically audited the service twice a year and on a monthly basis assess progress in quality, sales, margin and costs.

The service is now working towards the Food for Life Bronze Catering Award and is being enjoyed by a growing number of pupils, whilst also providing a financial surplus for the school.