



# Procurement Strategy

Policy	Procurement Strategy	Version	V1
Groups consulted	Finance & Resource Committee Executive Group	Date	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
Approval Date	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2025		
Approved By	All Trust level Policies to be approved by the Trust Main Board, following Committee recommendation.		
Review Date	June 2028		
For Publication	RKLТ Website / The Nest		

# CONTENTS

Item

1. Introduction .....	2
2. Strategic Aims .....	3
3. Principles .....	4
4. Implementation .....	4
5. Governance & Accountability .....	5
6. Review & Reporting .....	5
7. Linked Policies and Documents .....	5

## 1. Introduction

Red Kite Learning Trust ('RKLT') exists to provide an education by nurturing ambition, delivering excellence and enriching children's lives. This strategy outlines the procurement approach for RKLT to ensure that the purchase of goods, services, and works contributes directly to our mission and values. It aims to secure best value, ensure compliance, and support the delivery of high-quality education across all our schools.

Our values are at the heart of everything we do, so our Procurement Strategy has been devised to ensure that Collaboration, Integrity and Respect underpin this. We commit to the highest ethical standards and expect our suppliers and stakeholders to do the same.

Our Procurement Strategy will outline how our Procurement Team will operate not just to acquire goods and services, but drive value and deliver impact across our Trust.

In 2023/24 as a Trust our external spend was c.£22 million (excluding payroll), with our largest categories being Catering £2.6m, Building Projects £2.5m, Site Maintenance £2.1m, Cleaning £1.6m & Supply staff £1.4m.

Our vision for the Procurement service, is to provide a high-quality service to schools, ensuring value for money with every pound spent. We strive for continual improvement, are outward looking and will work with others across the sector to bring areas of best practice and embed within our systems and processes. A high performing procurement service will allow leaders to focus on educational excellence and reinvest any savings or efficiencies into our core purpose.

## 2. Strategic Aims

Our Procurement strategy must ensure compliance with robust procedures to meet all regulatory requirements, whilst ensuring Value for Money with efficient use of public funds.

In addition, our Procurement Strategy will:

- 2.1 Support Sustainability and Social Value** – Embed environmental, social and ethical considerations into all contracts, including promoting the Red Kite Foundation at every opportunity.
- 2.2 Commercial Opportunity** – Taking a commercial view on all decisions, maximising the benefit of scale and driving supplier performance through contract and risk management.
- 2.3 Partnership Approach** – Build and cultivate strong relationships with suppliers and other public sector entities to enjoy economies of scale for mutual benefit.
- 2.4 Innovate with Technology** – Embrace and encourage technological developments to improve efficiencies and shape best practice.

### 3. Principles

Procurement at RKLIT will be guided by the following principles

- 3.1 **Proportionality** – A proportionate approach to procurement balancing capacity, compliance whilst striving for continual improvement.
- 3.2 **We are Our Trust** – All procurement, regardless of location, should follow Trust policies and processes to ensure compliance and maximise value.
- 3.3 **Value for Money** – When making procurement decisions, we take a holistic approach to consider quality, sustainability and risk – not just a focus on lowest price.
- 3.4 **Contract Management** – Actively managing suppliers and contracts, holding them to account through robust KPI's to drive best value for our Trust.
- 3.5 **Values led Procurement** – Collaborate across the sector for the benefit of all, acting with the highest integrity and respect at all time. All suppliers must be treated equitably, have equal opportunities and remove barriers to participation.

### 4. Implementation

Our Procurement Team is a trusted, expert and supportive partner to all stakeholders across our Trust. We aim to combine strategic oversight with operational delivery by having staff with appropriate qualifications and ambition to deliver the highest quality service. Some of the key aspects of the Procurement Function are:

- 4.1 Continuous Professional Development for the Procurement Team to keep abreast of latest regulatory developments and best practice.
- 4.2 Deliver training to stakeholders across our Trust so staff and budget holders can make well informed decisions.
- 4.3 Focus on achieving the best outcome for all stakeholders in a compliant and ethical manner.
- 4.4 Use the principles of Operational Excellence to continually improve our systems and processes.
- 4.5 How the Procurement Plan at a department level feeds into the Trust Action Plan & wider strategic aims.

## 5. Governance & Accountability

This strategy has been devised with consultation from key stakeholders. The key personnel involved in the ongoing implementation and review of this are:

- **Chief Operations Officer:** Strategic oversight and leadership.
- **Chief Finance Officer:** Lead on Procurement
- **Commercial Director:** Focusing on commercial opportunities
- **Central Procurement Team:** Tactical delivery, policy compliance, contract support.
- **Headteachers and School Business Managers:** Local implementation and budget responsibility.
- **Finance & Resources Committee:** Oversight of procurement performance, risks, and high-value decisions.

## 6. Review & Reporting

Over the next 12–24 months, the Trust will develop and implement regular procurement reporting that covers and measures against:

- 6.1 Savings and efficiencies achieved
- 6.2 Social Value – Red Kite Foundation
- 6.3 Supplier statistics
- 6.4 Rolling procurement plan
- 6.5 Contract Management and Key KPI measures
- 6.6 Compliance and audit outcomes
- 6.7 This strategy will be reviewed annually and updated in line with the Academy Trust Handbook and any changes in legislation or internal policy.

## 7. Linked Policies and Documents

All strategy and policies are working towards RKLT's Mission, Values & Goals. To guide towards this, RKLT has a working document for the next 5 years outlining the vision and ambition for the Trust. Annually, the Trust has a Trust Action Plan which includes objectives and aims for that year. The Procurement Strategy has been devised in line with the Mission, Values & Goals, and the objectives and Action Plan adjusted annually to meet the current needs of stakeholders.

The relevant policies and documentation to the Procurement Strategy are listed below:

- RKLT Procurement Policy
- Scheme of Delegation
- Procurement Plan & Manual
- Finance Policy
- Trust Action Plan
- RKLT Risk Register