

# St Claire's Primary School

St Claire's is a state primary school situated in Clacton-upon-Sea. The school can cater for 240 pupils per day aged between 4 and 11 years.



## Case Study

### Problem:

The decision is made to withdraw the services of an in-house contract caterer and manage the catering operation as part of the school function. As a result the following key questions arose:

Where does the school source its suppliers? How does the school know it is buying at competitive pricing? Who will provide support when a supplier does not meet expectations or standards?

### Case Study:

St Claire's Primary School, made the decision to manage the catering operation in-house. In conjunction with Tricon Associates, who provided the support for TUPE, training, menu planning and budgetary management. Ipa provided the link to the suppliers to cover the key commodity requirements of grocery, frozen foods, fresh fruit /vegetables, cleaning/hygiene and uniforms. Ipa established accounts with the suppliers and co-ordinated the delivery days. Regular contact is maintained with the catering operation to ensure client satisfaction.

### ipa's Solution

ipa has a 'school' purchasing module that can be activated within a short timescale. The module provides;

- Established suppliers with a history of operating within the education sector.
- Published price lists that are reflective of menu requirements and best value pricing.
- Administrative support that will provide the link with the suppliers to open accounts and arrange delivery windows to meet set requirements.
- Monthly invoice price commodity price monitoring to ensure correct application of pricing.
- Supplier risk assessment and approval.
- Dedicated personnel to manage all needs and requirements.

### Testimonial

"ipa was invaluable in providing a supplier 'package' that could be activated so promptly. We did not have to spend valuable time in researching suppliers and investigating pricing – ipa did all this for us and reduced costs. The regular support from the ipa team means that we can concentrate on providing good quality food to our children whilst meeting our budgetary goals".  
Linda Jones, Catering Manager