

September 2018

Dear Schools,

It has been brought to our attention that some schools have been contacted by 'high street' supply agencies stating that as Supply+ are not registered with the new commercial framework for agency supply teachers' schools will not be able to use the Supply+ service, however this is not the case.

The 'Agency Supply Teacher Commercial Framework' establishes a list of preferred suppliers who must demonstrate they meet certain criteria which includes the following:

- are transparent about their rates
- complete thorough background and safeguarding checks
- give options to avoid costly fees when making staff permanent

The opportunity to register with the agency framework was not compulsory and was entirely voluntary. Careful consideration was given to whether it was in the best interest of Supply + and our schools to register. We considered the advantages of registering, which for Supply + appeared to be limited with possible cost implications, therefore we decided for the time being it is not in the best interests of our service or schools to join the scheme.

In arriving at this decision, it is clear Supply+ not only meet the agency's criteria but in a number of areas exceed them. For example:

- we do not need to have transparency around charges relating to introduction fees because we do not make such charges
- we charge all our Primary schools the same and all of our Secondary schools the same
- we do not enter into deals with schools or our teaching staff
- we complete thorough checks through our 'Safer Recruitment' process and do not charge 'finders fees' to schools when making staff permanent
- we are a community interest company which aims to deliver the highest standard of supply teachers with teaching quality as the main focus

The agreement is for an initial trial period of two years, after which it will be reviewed, it could then be withdrawn, extended or if successful, made compulsory. If it is made compulsory, Supply+ would of course join the list of suppliers in the agreement.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for using our service. As always, if you would like to discuss this matter further or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

Nicky Webster

Supply+ Team Lead