

What is the role of the Client Design Advisor in BSF?

Throughout BSF the Client Design Advisor (CDA) can be the client's consistent champion for quality with skills to enable communication and productive discussions about design between all the parties involved. They facilitate effective decision-making and see that the final buildings fulfil the requirements of the school, community and local authority (LA) to the highest standard.

BSF challenges LAs to commission excellent school buildings to ensure the best educational outcomes for their pupils. A BSF Project Director should ensure necessary internal support and external professional guidance is available from the earliest stages of the process. The CDA is a key provider of design guidance, support and advice.

The CDA is an experienced and accredited built environment professional with the key role of engaging all the stakeholders in BSF: the local authority, their design, technical and educational consultants, bidding consortia, and the school stakeholders, inspiring shared vision and confidence. Guiding and advising them through procurement, the CDA will support the LA and schools in getting buildings and grounds of the quality and value they seek.

CDAs have a strong sense of how successful projects are forged, making design requirements clear and achievable at every stage. At the earlier stages they will assist with the development of briefs, from strategic through into detailed project brief. With a thorough understanding of BSF the CDA will support the client: knowing which questions to ask and when, whether the proposed design best meets the brief and giving independent advice on the choice of design and construction partners. Once construction is underway the CDA can continue to support the client in maintaining quality through the building process and feeding back lessons learnt when the school is in use.