



Estates & Facilities Toolkit

3 more key findings from our estates and facilities survey

We're back with more insight from our recent survey! Trust Estates Manager, Site Manager, Premises Manager, School Facilities Manager, and Caretaker were just some of the job titles of those who shared their thoughts with us, and we've got three more key pieces of their insight to share with you today.

Shall we get started?

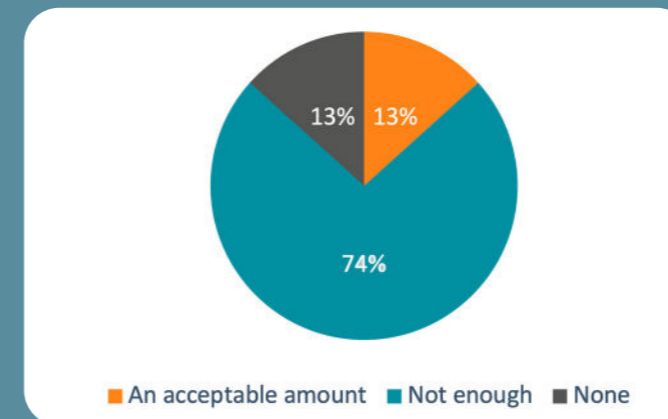
1. What are the busiest or most stressful times of the school year for you, and why?

As you will probably be able to relate to, 'school holidays' were a common theme in the majority of answers to this question. You'll likely also find some similarities in the reasons why, ranging from 'that is when major work can be completed' to it being 'the only time you can get any projects completed without interruption'.

Completing works during the holidays makes sense, simply because there's less staff and students on site. As one respondent put it, 'all the staff go off on holiday and leave a list of jobs they want doing for the start of the next term'. But how far is this also a barrier to actually getting major works done? One respondent told us that there are 'so many jobs we have to wait until there are no students on site'.

There was also one particular holiday that came up trumps as particularly busy and/or stressful, and it's just around the corner: Christmas. **'Christmas and Easter are both very busy periods with all the extra things that go on for the celebrations.'** From productions and concerts to open and evenings and parties, celebrations also bring more tasks to the to-do list of the estates and facilities team.

2. How much focus do you feel there is on the wellbeing of estates and facilities staff?



When we tell you that this question also had answer options of 'loads' and 'unsure', how does this chart make you feel? With almost three quarters of respondents saying there's 'not enough' focus on their wellbeing, and over 1 in 10 saying there's 'none', it's apparent that there is some work to be done on this vital element of staff welfare.

Taking care of your estates team

3. What do you wish other staff members knew/appreciated about facilities management (FM)?

The responses we had to this question might start to paint a picture about the thought-provoking stats our wellbeing question generated. Responses varied from a better understanding of 'how much' goes on behind-the-scenes and time pressures, through to communications with staff members not directly involved in FM – but reliant on it, nonetheless. We've pulled some examples from each theme below for your interest:

Behind the scenes

"How much goes on behind the scenes."
 "What goes on behind the scenes and how as a facilities manager you can't always be on the shop floor."

Time

"The time it takes to allocate and process tasks."
 "How much admin goes into FM."

Difficulty

"How hard it is sometimes."
 "The complexity and day to day duties keeping the site safe."
 "That not all jobs will or can be done."

Comms

“There’s a lack of understanding with regards to H&S issues, and communication with regards to hosting events is poor.”

Do you agree?

Bonus: What’s the best part of your job?

We know we said we’d be revealing three more findings, but we’ve got a bonus fourth to end on – because despite the challenges that working in FM brings, it also brings satisfaction and a sense of reward. Here’s some responses we hope you enjoy reading!

“Making people happy when we complete a job for them.”

“Seeing a difference.”

“Saving the school money.”

“Always having a fresh and maintained looking school. So when visitors come to site, the feedback is good and rewarding.”

“Being appreciated!”

“Improving the working environment for staff and students.”

“Satisfaction in knowing I am improving the safety of the school making it nicer for the children.”

So, as requests to accommodate Santa’s sleigh pile up and preparations for nativities and carol concerts get underway, bear the bigger picture in mind – ultimately, the huge role you’re playing in making the school site a happy and safe place for staff, students, and visitors alike.

If you’d like to learn more about how **Every Compliance** can support facilities and estates management in your organisation, get in touch with our friendly team.