



The Thomas Consultancy



Schools

1. Education has been a major government focus and as a result spending on schools has escalated in recent years. Capital investment in school buildings has risen from £700m in 1996/7 to £6.4bn in 2007/8 and a target of £8bn in 2010/11. In October 2007, the Schools Minister announced that £21.9 billion capital will be invested in schools between 2008 and 2011.
2. There are approximately 21,500 maintained schools in England, of which 18,000 are primary and 3,500 secondary. For the United Kingdom, the figures are 22,000 and 4,250 respectively.
3. **Building Schools for the Future** aims to rebuild or renew every one of England's 3,500 state secondary schools during the 15-year lifetime of the programme. After a slow start, there were 15 locations where winners or preferred bidders had been announced by the end of 2007. Consortia involving most of the leading UK contractors have been selected to date, with Balfour Beatty being the most successful. Projects have been typically worth £150-250 million in the initial phases.
4. **Primary Capital Programme** covers capital investment in English primary schools. The £7bn funding starts in 2008 and runs for around 15 years. It aims to rebuild, revamp and remodel 8,000 of England's 18,000 primary schools (a new primary school costs £3-5m typically). An additional £150 million in 2008-09 is expected to rise to £500 million by 2009-10. A total of 23 local authorities have been chosen by the government to pilot the scheme.
5. Schools spend approximately £1.6 billion revenue a year on **premises costs**.
6. There are about 2,500 **independent schools** in England, which account for 7% of the school age population. Over 80% of these children are in the 1,283 schools regulated by the Independent Schools Council (ISC). The ISC has reported that during 2006, schools spent £705 million on capital projects, of which £575 million relates to new and improved buildings, equivalent to around £500k per school.

