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Supply chain policy for NIS Group

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1. Purpose

This Supply Chain Policy outlines the principles and procedures that govern how NIS Group selects, manages, and collaborates with supply chain partners to deliver high-quality training and education across the infrastructure and rail sectors.

The policy ensures compliance, transparency, quality assurance, and alignment with NIS Group's strategic mission.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all supply chain partners, including subcontractors, training delivery partners, and third-party service providers engaged to support the design, implementation, or administration of NIS Group-funded training programmes and services.

3. Strategic objectives

NIS Group works with supply chain partners to:

- Enhance delivery capacity and reach across key regions (e.g., WMCA, Dudley, Coventry).
- Maintain high standards of teaching, learning, and learner support.
- Support targeted recruitment of underrepresented groups, including women, ex-military, and HMPPS leavers.
- Drive local economic and social mobility aligned with WMCA and LSIP goals.

4. Principles of engagement

All supply chain partnerships are governed by the following principles:

- Transparency in procurement, fees, and funding allocation.
- Shared commitment to learner outcomes and safeguarding.
- Compliance with Ofsted, ESFA, NSAR, GDPR, Prevent Duty, and Equality Act 2010.
- Continuous improvement through performance monitoring and CPD.

5. Selection and due diligence

NIS Group undertakes rigorous due diligence before engaging with any new partner. This includes:

- Financial health checks

- Quality and compliance history
- Staff qualifications and training capabilities
- Safeguarding and health & safety arrangements
- References and past performance with public funding

6. Contracting and funding

All subcontracting relationships are formalised through contracts detailing:

- The scope of work and services
- Funding allocations and payment terms
- Performance expectations and quality standards
- Mechanisms for data sharing, confidentiality, and dispute resolution

7. Quality assurance and oversight

NIS Group retains full accountability for the quality of provision delivered through its supply chain. Monitoring includes:

- Observations of teaching and learning
- Monthly performance reviews
- Data analysis using internal systems such as Magn8
- Risk-rated improvement planning

8. Performance management

Supply chain partners are expected to:

- Meet retention, achievement, and employment targets
- Submit regular data and financial claims
- Participate in learner voice feedback and self-assessment reviews
- Respond to audit and compliance requirements

9. Safeguarding and inclusion

Supply chain partners must uphold NIS Group's safeguarding standards and report incidents via systems like 'My Concern'.

Training on Prevent, British Values, and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion is mandatory for all subcontracted staff.

10. Communication and collaboration

NIS Group maintains regular contact with partners through site visits, joint delivery sessions, and operational briefings. Shared learning and best practices are promoted through joint CPD and peer reviews.

11. Fees and charges

NIS transparently publishes its subcontracting fees, typically retaining a management fee to cover oversight, quality assurance, data management, and safeguarding. This is reviewed annually in line with ESFA funding rules.

12. Policy review

This Supply Chain Policy is reviewed annually and updated as required to reflect changes in regulation, funding, or organisational priorities. Any updates are shared with stakeholders and published on the NIS Group website at nisgroup.co.uk