

# Osborne School

RIBA Award 2004

City of Winchester Trust Award 2004

Civic Trust Award Commendation 2004



**Location:**

Winchester, Hampshire

**Client:**

HCC Children's Services

**Value:** £5.9 million

**Completed:** September 2003

**Specialist teams:**

Architect / QS: HCC Property Services

Structures: RJ Watkinson Associates

M&E: Capita Symonds

Landscape: Hyland Edgar Driver

Acoustics: Arup Associates

Contractor: Walter Llewellyn & Sons Ltd. and Rok Construction

Osborne School is one of the UK's largest secondary special schools for children with complex learning difficulties, with some 170 secondary age pupils. It was designed by HCC Property Services to be a sustainable and welcoming school, that offers pupils with learning difficulties the best possible learning environment for their needs.

The sloping site in Winchester created many design challenges with the railway cutting, city water main and a primary Romano-British cemetery nearby. A two storey building was decided on, in order to improve efficiency, and full advantage was taken of this decision to give the building a compact feel, with the school community always closely connected.

The school is organised in three parts, with classrooms connecting directly to the playing fields, a double-height central circulation spine and a solid rear block as a shield to the railway line. The facilities provide 16 teaching bases, six specialist subject classrooms, a physio suite, IT suite, library and social area, light and sound room and support areas. A hydrotherapy pool and main hall can be accessed independently for community use.

Interior finishes are simple and robust with a limited palette of colours to allow the school community to take ownership with their own displays of creativity. All classrooms are naturally cross-ventilated, and maximum use of natural daylight is utilised to achieve good lighting conditions and optimum energy conservation.

## Key Benefits

- The building location has minimised the environmental impact of the project, and enhanced biodiversity.
- Creating a compact two-storey building has brought the school closer together.
- Getting around the building is simple for users.
- The building's form and construction are both energy efficient.
- Good levels of daylight have been achieved in teaching areas.

*“ This building works well at all levels, and is a very assured, thoroughly competent design. It does not break the mould, but stands out, in a field where we have come to expect a high level of quality in design, as a fine example of an established genre. ”*

RIBA Award Citation



# Osborne School

