

The Westgate School

SPACES Civic Building of the Year Award - shortlisted
RIBA MacEwan Award 2016 - longlisted

Property Services



Location: Winchester, Hampshire

Client: Hampshire County Council

Value: £6.1 million

Completed: Summer 2015

Specialist teams:

Architect, Interior Design, Quantity Surveying, Structural and Services, M&E, Building Inspectors: HCC Property Services
Acoustics: 24 Acoustics Ltd
Contractor: Balfour Beatty

The Westgate School project takes a redundant boarding house and creatively re-models and extends it to provide a new 420 place primary school. Built on the site of an existing secondary school, it creates a centred learning village for a 4-16 age range, the first 'all-through school' campus in Hampshire.

A former nursery school on the site was retained and remodelled, with a new steel frame enabling the internal walls and floors to be removed to form a stunning double height hall and drama studio. The new teaching spaces are built off this historic centrepiece and are configured over two floors to accommodate the significant change in levels across the site.

The 14 classrooms are all day lit, naturally ventilated and arranged around a central learning hub, one of three shared areas in the scheme. Common areas such as these provide greater social cohesion, and by allowing teaching spaces to open on to them corridors effectively disappear.

Externally the architecture is complimentary to the surroundings, with locally sourced materials that match those within the all-through school campus.

Key Benefits

- The teaching spaces, arranged around a central learning hub, provide a delightful and purposeful environment for learning
- Shared areas, such as the double height hall, help to promote the school's philosophy for children of all ages to use the site. This eases the challenges of transition between year groups and fosters behaviours and a culture within which confident and progressive young learners can flourish
- On and off site works have enabled additional staff car parking as well as improved pedestrian routes and parent drop-off and collection



“ It was fantastic to see the new lower school at Westgate which has been built to an incredibly high standard. ”

Nicky Morgan,
Education Secretary

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