

DAN-Y-COED CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL AND SPECIALIST SCHOOL



LOCATION: SWANSEA
CLIENT: ORBIS EDUCATION & CARE
VALUE: £2.5M
SIZE: NEW BUILD 972M ² - REFURBISHMENT 770M ²
COMPLETION: ONGOING
SERVICE: ARCHITECTURE
SECTOR: HEALTHCARE/EDUCATION
CONTRACTOR: ANDREW SCOTT
STRUCTURES: SHEAR DESIGN
SERVICES: NEIL RICHARDS PARTNERSHIP
COST CONSULTANT: RPA

Orbis Education & Care Group have acquired the site of Dan-y-Coed House in West Cross, Swansea. The site contains a Georgian style period property which was previously used as a training centre by the Local Authority with a 2 storey dormitory wing with activity hall, separate coach house and demountable structures all within the site boundary. The main building is of character, however is not listed or protected and has been unsympathetically extended over time.

A full scale refurbishment and extension of the existing Georgian building aims to provide the client with a school building for Autism Spectrum Condition pupils aged 5-19, a separate block of accommodation for pupils who require residential care and associated staff and office accommodation. These works aim to produce a group of buildings in which Orbis can expand their specialist provision of registered children's care and education to children and young adults with Autistic Spectrum Condition, learning disabilities and complex sensory, social and communication difficulties.



The new building will provide a home for up to 20 children aged 5-19 with severe Autistic Spectrum Condition, many of whom will be pupils at specialist school located on the site. The existing Dan-y-coed House is currently being refurbished to accommodate the main school building with a separate planning application to allow for a fully accessible school and a dining hall.

The driving concept for the scheme has been to break down what could become a large, institutional building down into a smaller, approachable series of homes which are more inviting for young children with Autism.

This has influenced the proposed form which, borrowing from the surrounding residential typology, breaks each bedroom down into a clearly identifiable separate home unit. These units are expressed with separate pitched roof

elements, the connection between the two wings of the building is set back with a simple flat roof to signify the entrance as a separate functional element. The living rooms which face the driveway is expressed with a mono-pitch roof element and treated in a different material to identify the difference in function.

The children's residential care home is designed to provide the residents with a clear separation from the school buildings on the site where most of the resident's will also be educated. This also supports the domestic aesthetic which is in keeping with this a smaller scale backland development which is clearly subservient and separate to the main Georgian House on the site.

This concept has determined the massing, materiality and form of the proposed building. This approach has also been developed

as it respects the neighbouring residential properties and context surrounding this constrained area of the site.

Orbis group comprises of specialist schools, residential homes, respite services and a unique work-skills centre. The development at Dan-y-coed will be the latest expansion to their award-winning facilities.