

GELLISWICK CHURCH IN WALES VC SCHOOL, PEMBROKESHIRE



LOCATION: MILFORD HAVEN, PEMBROKESHIRE
CLIENT: PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
VALUE: £8M
SIZE: 3500M²
COMPLETION: 2017
SERVICE: ARCHITECTURE, INTERIORS, LANDSCAPE
SECTOR: EDUCATION
CONTRACTOR: WILLMOTT DIXON
LANDSCAPE: AUSTIN-SMITH:LORD
STRUCTURES: CAMBRIA
SERVICES: TB+A
COST CONSULTANT: FAITHFUL & GOULD

Austin-Smith:Lord was appointed as Executive Architects by Willmott Dixon in the development of a new £8m, BREEAM excellent primary school for 480 pupils with provision for future expansion to 540 pupils.

The new school is designed to replace two existing schools of Hakin Community School and Hubberston VC School and accommodate their combined pupil numbers. In doing so it will also provide enhanced accommodation for a 'County Complex Needs Unit' accommodating 24 pupils aged 3-11, a 'Flying Start Facility' and some shared facilities made available for Community use.



The site enjoys stunning views of the Milford Haven Estuary and the design of the new school sought to utilise the benefits of these vistas wherever possible. The main hall and library as core spaces for the entire school have in particular taken advantage of the setting with large windows stretching down to floor level so that even the youngest pupils can benefit from them. Each classroom features expansive windows and ground floor nursery and reception classrooms also have generous rooflights, all providing ample natural lighting for pupils and teachers.

The building's mass and warm material palette sits comfortably on the landscape alongside the imposing fortress battery overlooking the estuary from the same portion of coastline. A series of shading fins which help control glare within classrooms are coloured so as to provide an interesting relief to the facade while continuing the theme of inviting warmth which personifies the whole building.

The scheme achieves BREEAM Excellent through a series of criteria carefully selected to benefit both the environment and the

building's users. It is further made sustainable by the introduction of facilities, additional to the core teaching environment, which serve the wider specialist education needs of the whole county. The scheme also delivers a wider community benefit through the provision of flexible shared spaces internally and an advanced 3G rugby pitch for year round use within the site curtilage.

The landscape work to the site features carefully selected planting at key areas and suitable tree species at the main public facing aspects. Innovative topographic features have been formed within the school yards to act as attractive social areas, with dedicated MUGA for ball games. Public pathways around the site have been improved with upgraded surfaces and enhanced lighting.