



Henlow
Church of England Academy

Four Court Sports Hall and Six Classroom Block at Henlow Church of England Academy, Henlow, Bedfordshire

Client: Henlow Church of England Academy

Project value: £2.4 million

Problem:

Due to an expansion in pupil numbers in the local area, there was a need not only provide additional classroom places in Henlow, but also to expand the range of educational facilities available. This included indoor sports provision. The site at Henlow Church of England Academy had enough space to expand, but there were a number of planning and logistical challenges to overcome, such as the proximity of the school to Grade II* Listed Henlow Grange, the location of two older modular classrooms on the site and the necessity to build at the edge of existing school playing field. The Academy also had to apply for funding to the Department for Education in order to cover the investment needed for two of the six classrooms.

Solution:

Following a feasibility process during which planning considerations were addressed, a design for a four-court sports hall with ancillary facilities such as changing rooms and storage was drafted. Attached to the hall is a six-classroom, two-storey block which offers modern, state of the art facilities for up to 180 pupils. A wide range of stakeholders including the Diocese of St Albans, Sport England, Leisure Services and Highways were involved in the project, and our project management of the build involved bringing all parties together. The design complies with Department for Education and Sport England guidance.

Result:

This integrated teaching and sports block is a welcome addition for the Academy. Sports including netball, badminton, hockey, basketball and futsal can be played indoors, and the school will be hiring out the facilities to local teams and clubs, thereby making it a popular addition for the local community. Classrooms are bright and welcoming with interactive white boards and mechanical ventilation. Staff and pupils are very happy to be making full use of the new accommodation. Head teacher Caren Earp is thrilled with the new facilities: "A big thank you to PCMS Design - with all of their support, design skills and project management expertise we now have a fantastic new building which is going to be of huge benefit to our children, increasing the number and range of opportunities for sport that we can now offer."