

# News

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## **Balloch campus pupils make their debut on new pitch**

School and nursery pupils had an exciting first glimpse of their new £16million education campus in Balloch, West Dunbartonshire, at a special preview event marking the completion of the facility's all-weather sports pitch.

Construction and infrastructure company, Morgan Sindall, is building the new campus for West Dunbartonshire Council (WDC), having been appointed through the LHC Schools & Community Buildings Framework.

The new 53,280 sq ft education facility is being built on the site of the former St Kessog's Primary School on Dalvait Road. It will enable three existing schools to co-locate in a modern learning environment, which will welcome almost 500 pupils when it opens in early 2018.

One school will retain St Kessog's name and Roman Catholic identity. A new school, Balloch Primary School, formed by the merger of Jamestown and Haldane primaries, will share the site.

An Additional Support Needs (ASN) unit and a new Balloch Early Learning and Childcare Centre (ELCC) will also be based at the campus.

Pedestrian and vehicle access will be enhanced, with a new route into the site and drop-off points for cars and buses created.

With the new all-weather sports pitch now installed, pupils, councillors, council officers and representatives from Morgan Sindall, had the chance to walk the turf and tour the facility as it takes shape ahead of a handover in early 2018.

Iain Kent, Morgan Sindall's commercial director in Scotland, said: "We're incredibly pleased to delivering this landmark education project for the council.

"Construction work is progressing well and, after a positive preview event, we're confident that the finished campus will be enjoyed by staff and pupils alike for years to come."

Councillor Karen Conaghan, the council's convener of education, said: "The Balloch campus is looking fantastic and it's great to see it coming together ahead of its opening next year.

"With the sports pitch now in place, I know it's starting to get exciting for the youngsters who will be moving here. To get a tour of the facility was very helpful and the council can be very proud of the work being done to improve the educational opportunities for all of our children."

Vice convener, councillor Caroline McAllister, added: "This campus will help improve the life chances of our children and provide them with a school which will fully support their learning, attainment and achievement. We are committed to ensuring our pupils are educated in the best facilities possible and the Balloch Campus is a modern, safe and welcoming school."

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