

News

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Morgan Sindall Construction appointed to deliver £18 million Eden Girls Leadership Academy

Morgan Sindall Construction has won a £18 million contract to build a single-gender school for Birmingham City Council in Small Heath, which will provide 600 school places for both secondary and sixth form pupils.

Eden Girls Leadership Academy is the company's fifth education contract won through the Constructing West Midlands (CWM) framework this year. Designs for the new development use Morgan Sindall Construction's MySchool model, which provides a high-quality standardised solution for education projects. MySchool offers considerable time savings both pre-construction and on-site, alongside added cost-efficiency through DFE funding.

The new 48,000 square foot campus is located on Hob Moor Road, and will comprise 15 modern, general teaching classrooms in addition to three ICT-rich classrooms, five science laboratories and one science preparatory room, spread over three storeys.

External features include a sports hall and external grass pitch, as well as providing library space with a new Learning Resource Centre. The Muslim-faith based school will also have a reflection hall for prayer, and an ablutions room.

An important condition within the successful tender submission was the main contractor's promise to adhere to the Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility. Morgan Sindall Construction has been a signatory of the charter since 2014, which aims to boost the local economy through support of the local supply chain, creation of job opportunities and ensuring employees are paid a fair wage.

Small Heath, where the school will be located, is one of Birmingham's inner-city wards and has accrued high demand for student places in the past two years.

As an interim solution, Birmingham City Council commissioned a temporary school nearby, on the grounds of the former Clifton Road Primary School. Morgan Sindall Construction erected a two-storey modular building earlier this year which is currently accommodating 270 students, with a scope to increase this number to 360.

Work is set to commence on the main Hob Moor Road scheme in November, and is expected to complete by spring 2021.

Dave Kelly, CWM Framework Manager at Morgan Sindall Construction, said: "Delivering the number of school places the West Midlands requires to keep pace with population growth is an ongoing challenge for local authorities. Efficient procurement is key to success. Working through the CWM Framework over the past eight years, we've designed and built a range of schools, many on challenging sites, to help meet this demand.

"Our MySchool solution can be adapted quickly to individual briefs. It affords the speed and cost-effectiveness of a pre-designed model, but with scope to flex and add bespoke elements. It offers savings of up to a third in comparison to a standard build, but without the design constraints of completely flat-pack solutions that are put forward as the silver bullet for education projects.

“With more girls than ever getting involved in STEM we are particularly proud to help deliver the Eden Girls Leadership Academy’s impressive laboratories and technical facilities. Investing in education is an investment into our future, and this new build will be an inspirational learning environment fit for 21st century education.”

Ryan Turner, Education Account Manager for Acivico said: “Acivico is proud to be delivering the first Islamic faith girls’ school for Birmingham City Council – Eden Girls Leadership Academy. The project has progressed very well and a start on site is now imminent.”

“Acivico’s unique experience in the education sector blended with a collaborative ‘one team’ approach to working with partners Morgan Sindall Construction and Birmingham’s Education Department has enabled the team to deliver this innovative flagship project, which will have a positive impact on the local community. The scheme, for which Acivico has supplied project management, quantity surveying and clerk of works services, will greatly enhance the learning experience of the young people of the area and provide a first class educational offer.”

For more information about this news release please contact Helena Young or Jonathan Daly at Influential on 0161 804 1400 or email young@thisisinfluential.com