

News

12.09.16

Morgan Sindall creates 'first-class' learning environment at the £6.9 million Pines School

Morgan Sindall has handed over the new Pines Special School at Marsh Hill, Birmingham in time for this year's new intake.

The new school, which specialises in educating children with autism, is the largest building of a Special Educational Needs establishment in the West Midlands. It was delivered on budget and ahead of schedule via the Constructing West Midlands (CWM) framework for Birmingham City Council (BCC).

The CWM framework, which was set up by BCC and is managed by Acivico, covers the whole of the greater West Midlands region. The school is one of eight education schemes being delivered by Morgan Sindall through the framework in 2016.

The project to deliver new accommodation for The Pines School, has seen the wholesale refurbishment of the derelict Josiah Mason College and Canavan building on Marsh Hill in the Stockland Green area of the city. The transformation has delivered a modern facility which suits the requirements of the 200 reception to Key Stage Five children who will attend.

Inside the school's two and three-storey buildings, new teaching areas, shared halls, dining and kitchen facilities have been created along with a number of sensory spaces. It also includes specialist speech and language therapy areas and calm spaces for the childrens' use. Outside, new external play and learning areas have been developed to maximise the site and to provide alternative environments for children to explore.

The school has been designed around the needs of children with autism with decisions on the colour palette, the doors and other materials all influenced by the pupils' perspectives. No detail has been left to chance, down to the noise output of hand-dryers which have been specifically selected so as not to impact on the pupils' sensory needs.

Richard Fielding, area director at Morgan Sindall, said: "The Pines School is a vital asset for Birmingham and it is wonderful to have been able to provide it with the facilities it needs to match its outstanding educational delivery.

"The process of piecing this school together has been meticulous and we are very proud of the end result."

Sue Brandwood, Head Teacher said: "The entire school community is truly delighted with the building which will greatly enhance the educational opportunities available for our pupils and enable us to extend our outstanding provision for the future. Morgan Sindall has been an ideal partner throughout the project owing to their meticulous attention to detail, their open and courteous attitude and the exceptionally high quality of their work."

Jake Sullivan, Project Manager for Acivico, said: "I am extremely proud to have been involved in such an exciting and rewarding project. To see the transformation from the previously dilapidated building, to the expertly designed and refurbished new Pines School is astonishing and is a real testament to all involved. The whole team has worked extremely hard over the last two years to overcome numerous challenges in order to create the perfectly finished building you see today. I

am certain that the new school will be positively received and enjoyed by all pupils and staff for many years to come.”

The project will result in the relocation of The Pines Special School from its current position at Dreghorn Road which has been deemed as unsuitable for use as an SEN school.

For more information about this news release please contact Jon Daly or Steve Sanders at Influential on 0151 239 5000 or email daly@thisisinfluential.com