

News

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Morgan Sindall progresses £15.4 million Essex special needs school

Morgan Sindall is on-site delivering a £15.4 million special educational needs school in Essex.

The project, funded by Essex County Council, involves the team delivering Glenwood School, a specially designed education facility for young people aged 3-19 years with severe (and multiple) learning difficulties.

The two-storey school will include state-of-the-art facilities to support 210 children and young adults. The new building will feature 26 spacious classrooms, a hydrotherapy pool and specialist facilities to help meet the young people's sensory needs, including swing therapy rooms and a trampoline room to help promote body awareness, sequencing, postural control and organisation of the senses.

The Morgan Sindall project team will also deliver an independent living area within the school, which will help older students prepare for adulthood, and an immersive room that uses projection imagery to simulate a range of environments. The new timber-frame school will comprise a rendered board exterior and will be built just yards away from the existing school site.

The new building will also include music rooms and design technology facilities to encourage creativity, and various vocational bases including soft play rooms and two hall spaces for group activities. The Morgan Sindall project team will also deliver external works, including outdoor play areas and a car park for 110 vehicles.

Judith Salter, Headteacher at Glenwood School, said: "We are delighted that we will have a building with all the space we need. We really need this new school to provide an even better experience and education for young people, but also to have enough places for those who need us."

Cllr Ray Gooding, Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning, said: "Proposals to expand Glenwood School were a long time in the planning and I am delighted this exciting project is now underway.

"We are committed to ensuring all pupils in Essex receive the best possible education and the county's schools are equipped to meet pupils' individual needs.

"The relocation and expansion of this already outstanding school will make a significant contribution to that and will enable us to meet the increased demand for special school places in Castle Point."

Gavin Napper, area director at Morgan Sindall, said: "We're delighted to have been appointed to this important scheme, which will help to alleviate demand for special educational needs school places in Essex.

"Schools like Glenwood are truly exceptional places providing the very best support and learning opportunities for children and young adults with special educational needs. The outstanding facilities at the new building will provide a secure, innovative and exciting learning space for pupils at Glenwood School and we look forward to handing over the keys in time for the beginning of the autumn term in 2017."

Work at Glenwood School is a continuation of Morgan Sindall's successful relationship with Essex County Council. The firm recently completed a £5.8 million project to rebuild John Ray Infant and Junior School after the building was destroyed by fire in 2013. The new school includes 12 spacious classrooms, a library, an assembly hall with adjoining kitchen, a smaller hall and an ICT room. The project also included an extension to the existing junior school which increased its capacity by 30 pupils per year group.

For more information about this news release please contact Niamh Conway at Influential on 0151 239 5000 or email conway@thisisinfluential.com