

Leigh and Bransford Primary School, Increase Capacity to One Form Entry

A review and public consultation held in 2014 tasked with identifying options for expanding school capacity in the Malvern area. At the time the school catered for a total of 108 pupils arranged in 4-5 classbases and taught in mixed age groups. The clients objective was to expand the existing school to accept an intake of 30, taught in discrete age groupings.

The existing building dated from the early 1990s consisting of four classrooms with external practical areas straddling a central hall space and small library. Spaces generally were significantly below current area guidelines. In the late 1990s, in response to an anticipated upturn in numbers, a small single classroom extension with toilets and link block was built. However this room was too small for a full class group and came to be used for group teaching and ICT.

The site is positioned on the northwest corner of the village of Leigh Sinton. The site is surrounded to the north and east by agricultural holdings, to the west by the

Hereford Road (A4103) and to the south by the housing development of Hoopers Close. External space was also restricted which had encouraged the school to acquire additional site for a playing field extension. Limited parking space and the position of the school at the head of a narrow cul-de-sac had driven the school's requirement that parking and access be addressed.

Additional land was acquired from the neighbouring agricultural owner to effectively double the existing playing field. The existing field extension was then developed to provide parking and drop-off facilities to ease the congestion in the existing cul-de-sac.

The building itself required an additional three full-size teaching spaces. The existing one classroom extension was too small and lay between the existing building and the site for the three class extension. It was therefore decided to build over the footprint of this building to create new circulation and a library and focal point for the expanded school. The space between the two was developed to provide pupil and staff toilets.

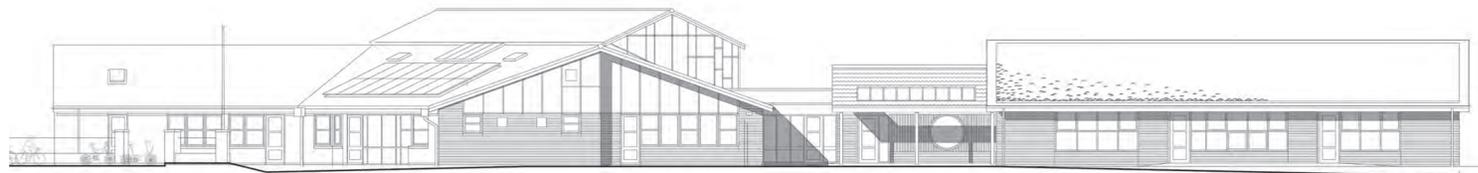
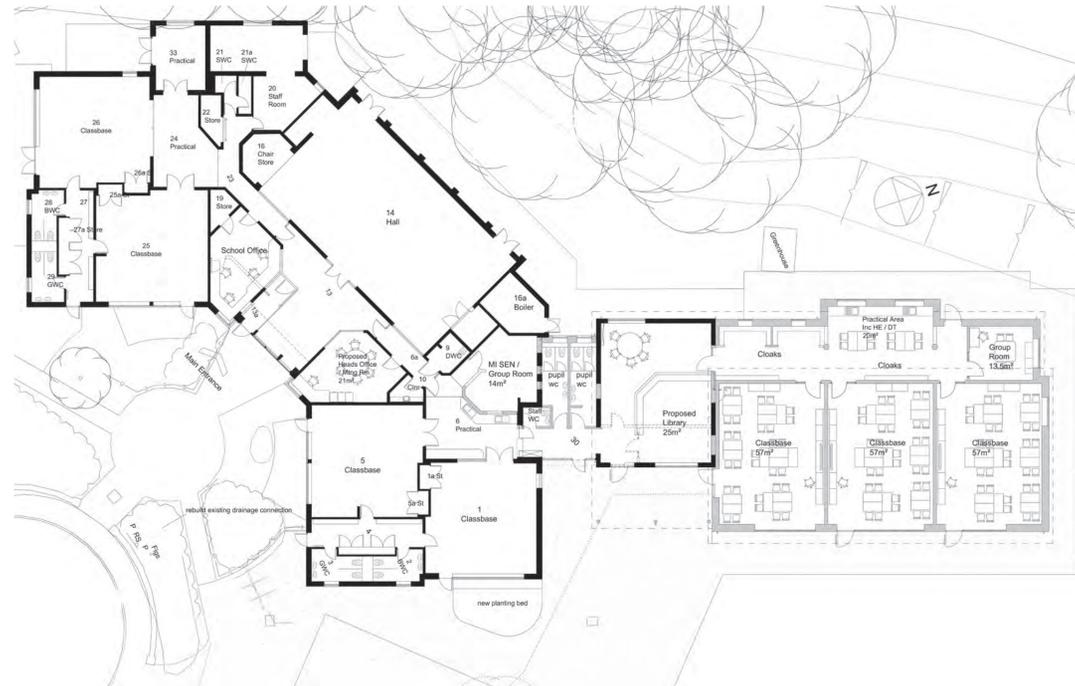
The extension consists of a single storey pitched roofed building housing the

three class bases, group room and cloaks storage area. The roof line of the library is projected outwards to provide a sheltered external space facing towards the hardplay area and field.

The new classrooms are appropriately sized, supplied with good natural light and views with direct external access in each. Opening windows on opposite sides of the classrooms promotes manually controlled natural ventilation, assisted by CO₂ monitoring. The classrooms face east to orientate the teaching spaces away from noise generated by traffic on the main road.

The extension was constructed in 150mm insulated timber frame in open panel construction. The proposed roof form consists of a lower roof at 15 degree pitch with tiled coverings to recall the appearance of the existing roofs. Above this is an upper roof detailed with as an extensive green roof with Sedum species.

The upper walls on the new buildings are detailed as a rainscreen with board-on-board cladding in rough sawn native oak.



KEY PROJECT FACTS

- Client: Worcestershire County Council
- Architect: Jacobs (Worcester) Project Architect: Duncan Bicknell
- Other Consultants: Jacobs - M&E, Structural Engineers, Quantity Surveyors and Clerk of Works
- Completed: February 2017
- Contract Value: £910,000.00
- Contract Type: JCT Intermediate
- Contractor: Stepnell Ltd