



CASE STUDY: EDUCATION
WEST KIRBY RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL





Overview of Phases

- PHASE 1 Refurbishment of Residential Accommodation
- PHASE 2 Conversion of gymnasium into the Main Hall, new secondary entrance and remodelling for staff offices
- PHASE 3 Refurbishment of Residential Accommodation
- PHASE 4 Remodelling & extension of obsolete hall into classrooms and workshops
- PHASE 5 New bridge link between classroom blocks improving first floor access
- PHASE 6 Art Room, Home Economics & Post 16 Unit refurbishment
- PHASE 7 Significant remodelling of the internal core to create new admin facilities
- PHASE 8 Internal remodelling to create new behavioural, educational, speech & language centre
- PHASE 9 Flat Roof repairs and new Fire Escape
- PHASE 10 Refurbishment and extension to create new Science Laboratory
- PHASE 11 Primary Pupils Unit
- PHASE 12 Refurbishment & first floor extension to create new Post 16 Centre
- PHASE 13 Refurbishment & extension to create new Autism Suite & Bridge Link

Designing for Complex Needs

West Kirby Residential School is a Non-Maintained Special School, an exemplar Special Educational Needs (SEN) College And National Support School.

Throughout all phases of redevelopment and refurbishment, the requirements of designing for Special Educational Needs have been paramount, and at the forefront of improving the existing facilities, ensuring the accommodation is suitable, accessible and enjoyable for use by everyone, regardless of ability, age or gender.

Design decisions have been influenced by the need to provide spaces that will help to encourage children to develop their inner control and social skills, to help overcome their own individual behavioural difficulties.

Particular consideration has always been given to the construction phases of this project, where the challenges presented with working on a live site of this nature are of paramount importance.

CASE STUDY: EDUCATION

WEST KIRBY RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

Name of Building

West Kirby Residential School
Phased Refurbishment and Remodelling

Date Completed

2003—2015

Project Cost

Various phases totalling £3.5 million over 10 years

Building Type

Education—Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Location

West Kirby, Wirral

Client

West Kirby Residential School

Scheme Overview

West Kirby Residential School is a Special Needs School offering education and care for day and residential pupils aged from 5-16+. The school caters for boys and girls with complex social, emotional and behavioural difficulties, often linked to Asperger's Syndrome, with a range of learning and communication problems. Ainsley Gommon Architects have been involved in the school's programme of remodelling and refurbishment covering multiple phases over a 12 year period, helping to create a purpose designed supportive learning environment.

Since 2003, thirteen phases of work have been successfully completed, with over £3.5million invested over the 12 year period. The work has been varied and has included a range of refurbishment schemes, major internal remodelling of the existing Victorian red brick school building and external envelope improvements. A number of new extensions have also been completed, the first being a new entrance hall and the most recent being a new Autism suite completed in 2015.

In 2008 Ainsley Gommon were commissioned to design a new contemporary bridge link to connect two wings of existing accommodation. The imaginatively designed bridge zigzags between existing trees with irregular window openings designed to frame specific views, creating a dynamic and visually stimulating space for both students and staff.

The projects completed have catered for the full range of building users, ranging from work on the administration facilities for the staff, to the Primary Pupils Unit for the youngest students, right through to teaching & residential accommodation for all ages culminating in our current work on the Post 16 Unit.

