



CASE STUDY: EDUCATION
YSGOL BRO LLIFON



Existing Groeslon School Building





Design Approach

Due to the sensitive nature of the scheme and the proposed site, early consultation with the Community and Planning Department was essential to obtain their thoughts on how the scheme should integrate into the area. This was one of the primary risk management strategies used in the design process, saving time in the early design stage. This engagement resulted in the scheme being designed sympathetically to everyone's views.

The consultation revealed that the planners wished for the development to be of a low scale and that the design should look like a number of small clustered buildings rather than one large block. As a result, the scheme keeps the original Victorian part of the school as a focal point and entrance and creates a number of additional flexible teaching and spill out spaces, linked to outdoor spaces.

The design wraps around a central courtyard garden space. Natural light and cross ventilation is

maximised within the building and the layout is designed to maximise children's play and social interaction. The scheme encourages integration into the community with the hall and sports facilities and "community rooms" facilitating out of hours use by the public.

Following consultation with the school children, the concept of a rainbow was included within the scheme. A range of colours are applied to the walls that face into the courtyard, which introduces a sense of playfulness which contrasts with the outward facing traditional appearance, and providing a guide point to allow the children to relate to their own classroom.

A Planning Application was submitted in December 2013 and Planning Approval was achieved in 8 weeks during February 2014.

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Name of Building

Ysgol Bro Llifon —Area Primary School for
Groeslon, Carmel and Y Fron

Project Dates

2013—2015

Project Cost

£4.2 million

Building Type

Education—Primary

Location

Groeslon, Gwynedd

Client

Gwynedd Council

Building Overview

The proposed new area school in Gwynedd is located on the current Ysgol Groeslon school site in Groeslon village, approximately 5 miles south of Caernarfon. The 180 capacity school aims to provide modern facilities and quality learning environments for the children of the Groeslon, Carmel and Bronyfoel catchment areas. Located on the site of one of the existing schools, the brief required the removal of the existing poor quality prefabricated accommodation but the retention of the existing Victorian school building, which has been incorporated within the build.

The proposals make use of the older, existing pitched roof building and extends this to create a new open ended, sheltered court yard development wrapping around the existing site. The new school provides six classrooms along with a number of different teaching spaces, staff and administration areas, a large hall and central resource spaces which could be used by members of the community outside of school hours.

The school has been sensitively designed to work within the surrounding context of the local vernacular by replicating the built form to create the feeling of a collection of white rendered, slate roofed traditional welsh cottages. These buildings are joined by a series of metal clad links which introduces an element of contemporary detailing.

