

Cavell Primary School - Case Study



"The new school is absolutely fantastic. It is a really nice and spacious building. Its not just a good school, it is just the best I have been in. The staff keep walking round it in disbelief and the children are going to be blown away".

Pauline Walsh - Head teacher at the opening ceremony.

"The new school is fantastic, really imaginative and a quantum leap from the old building."

Sue Whittaker – County Councillor, Lakenham Ward and Governor.

Project Sheet

Lead Designer & CA
Catherine Read at NPS

Structural Engineer
Richard Jackson plc

Principal Constructor
J. S. Hay Ltd

Client
Norfolk County Council
Childrens Services

Construction Cost
£1.6 million

Construction Programme
August 2003 – September
2004



Cavell Primary School and Nursery replaced a tired but much loved 1930s school building, considered unsuitable for modern teaching.

Key to project success was the level of engagement in the development of the project by the end-users, and the ethos of Partnering with the Constructor team.

Designed for 160 pupils, aged 3 to 8 years, they helped to pick colour schemes, design the grounds and took part in a variety of buiding projects in the old school whilst the new building took shape.

Significant design features included en-suite cloaks and toilet pods to classrooms and rooflight wells to bring natural light deep into the back of the classrooms. External insulated renders were colour-keyed in a variety of pastel shades to accent different part of the school.

Accommodation includes a nursery unit, two reception classrooms and four general classrooms, multi-purpose studio, a hall, staff room and medical room.

The previous school footprint was turned into hardstanding for a car park and hard play area and parents and governors raised funds for an adventure playground and equipment.

The school provides tranquil areas for decorative and sensory planting, with land devoted to cultivation by the children, together with a grass amphitheatre with wooden seating.

The school was officially opened by **Education Secretary Charles Clarke** in October 2004 and in 2005 was awarded an **NAA Craftmanship Award** in the category New Commercial Buildings.

Catherine Read maintained an on-going interest in the school, serving on the Governing body for a number of years.

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