

Golden Lane Campus



Key Information

Client Islington Borough Council
Value £16.3 million
Facilities 420 primary school and 30 primary special school places

Key Fact Successfully completed 19th Century Burial excavations without additional cost to Client.
Completed August 2007





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Introduction A design and build scheme replacing three outdated schools with purpose built facilities, creating a modern campus environment integrating two primary schools and a special school, all within an extremely difficult city environment next to the iconic Barbican.

Key Facts 'Upward' design reduced the building footprint to fit into the small site available with no reduction in useable space. Play areas and sports courts are located at roof level, while green roofs reduce the visual impact from neighbouring high level residences.

Details The new school building provides 420 primary school places and 30 places for pupils with physical disabilities. The scheme also incorporates a community resource and caretaker's accommodation on site.

Successes Willmott Dixon scored 10/10 for client satisfaction at the preconstruction stage. An open book approach and clearly defined roles and responsibilities, along with honesty and flexibility ensured the discovery and subsequent exhumation of 19th Century burial remains and 'room' sized blocks of concrete were managed in harmony with the client. Keeping all stakeholders involved and informed, with a programme of extensive end-user training and extended support gave the building users confidence in taking ownership of their new facility.



Sustainable achievements The design incorporates a series of materials and features such as high thermal mass, a hybrid natural ventilation system, recycled glass and rubber and a very good standard in air tightness tests.

Community initiatives Developing a relationship with the adjoining building users, particularly the Barbican management team was essential to ensuring smooth running of the site. The Willmott Dixon Team worked hard to create excellent relationships and mutual co-operation with the local community, including 'open evenings' with escorted tours out of operating hours.

Testimonial **Anne Corbert, Head Teacher, Richard Cloudesley School:**

"It is significant that [the architect] and Willmott Dixon have actively and successfully developed a strong working relationship with the headteachers and school governors."

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