

# The Learning Plaza at Castle Park Primary School



Delivered for Monmouthshire County Council

Facilities: 60 place Learning Plaza  
Completed: August 2011 | Value: £1.0m



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

**Key facts** The Plaza is a space for 60 children to learn in an open plan environment.

The building, the furniture and acoustics are designed to embrace this style of teaching. The Learning Plaza has flexible areas that can be allocated for different activities for both indoor and outdoor learning. This will enable the school to deliver personalised learning that will prepare children for transition to secondary school and 21st century learning, life and employability.

**Introduction** The aims of this construction project were to prepare young people by developing their skills and knowledge through a more interactive and experiential approach to learning. It was considered difficult for staff to provide this type of learning experience within traditional classroom environments.

The new Learning Plaza at Castle Park Primary School will provide pupils with a spacious and stimulating place for learning that excites their curiosity within a 21st century learning environment they can be proud of.

The flexibility of the 60 place Plaza will assist staff in taking account of the learning needs and preferences of individual pupils particularly those who require additional support. The Plaza will accommodate pupils in a range of groupings and settings including areas for group work and 1:1 support. Staff based in the Plaza will work collaboratively and pupils will benefit from their combined expertise and support.

**Sustainability Successes** MODCELL straw bale construction techniques. This form of construction was chosen following a review of the site physical constraints. The straw bale panels were constructed in a local Monmouthshire farm, using local Monmouthshire straw.

EPC A rated building – low energy demand.

**Community Initiatives** Willmott Dixon organised a visit for the school and community to the local farmers 'flying factory' to watch the straw bale panel construction.

**Testimonials** **Councillor Liz Hackett-Pain, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning. Monmouthshire County Council.**

"It's fantastic to have this 21st century space for the young people within Monmouthshire. This most certainly is way forward for the future. Exciting times for schools."

**Contact** Bob Athroll, Education Sector Manager | 01675 467666