



Award Category: Design Excellence

Project: John F. Kennedy RC School extension, Hemel Hempstead

Client: Archdiocese of Westminster

Architect: Perkins Ogden



The John F. Kennedy RC School identified a need for a new sports and teaching facility which would cater for music, drama, sport, art and learning difficulties. To accommodate this need a new building was constructed, together with the refurbishment and alteration of existing rooms.

Key design elements were focused at enhancing the accessibility, enjoyment and functionality of the school for its users. The immediate area around the new building and around the spinney has been upgraded, with all three of its principal entrances designed to be welcoming and easily distinguished.

The new building is unashamedly modern but at the same time low key. Timber is used both internally & externally to compliment & reflect the adjacent woodland. It has been designed to increase DCSF space standards, with several areas intended to be flexible in use, e.g. the art gallery and sports hall is the same space.

Judges comments:

“The innovative dual use of space at John F. Kenny School is pleasing as it allows the school to make the most of its resources. The use of timber in the school’s construction perfectly complements its setting and ensures that its fresh, modern design blends into its environment.”