

# Willow Lodge Infant School, Chester

## PROJECT DETAILS

Anwyl were awarded the contract for the developments at the prestigious Kings School in Chester. The school required a brand new building to facilitate their new infants school which would operate along-side the existing junior and senior schools.

 **Client: Kings School, Chester**

 **Contract Period: 32 weeks**

 **Completion Date: June 2015**

 **Value: £2.1M**

The new Willow Lodge school was designed to educate 4-7 year old pupils using innovative design features. The building contains 6 classrooms including covered outdoor teaching areas, 3 breakout learning areas, an activity room, main hall, dining room. In addition to this there is a library, staff room, contemporary WC facilities and a medical room.

## FACTS & FIGURES

 **Completed on time & within budget**

 **6 apprentices worked on site**

## CHALLENGES

The new school was to be built on land adjacent to the cricket pitch which was to remain in use by the existing school for the entire construction period. In order to maintain the safety of these pupils, Anwyl delivered safety awareness talks and developed a special access route which allowed the children and teachers to access the grounds as normal at no further risk to their safety.

During the fit-out phase of the build, the project team were faced with the challenge of changes to the internal floor specification, the new flooring design was due to set the project back by 3 weeks. Anwyl effectively managed the teams on site and strategically adjusted the programme which resulted in the new floor being fitted, with no delays to the original final handover date.



## INNOVATION & SUSTAINABILITY

**The new school is surrounded by extensive outdoor grass areas, wooded games and a large soft surface play area...**

- Wooden seating and play equipment was specifically selected for the children to play safely. In addition to the play areas, Anwyl developed an outdoor reading area, outdoor covered classroom and storage area. Internally, the decor and colour finishes were designed to be vibrant for the young children and to enhance and encourage their learning.
- The whole building is constructed of timber frame, complete with cedar cladding. In order to naturally increase heat retention, the building has a sedum living roof consisting of wild flower and grasses.
- Each classroom is fitted with full height glazing, increasing the natural light in the building and providing the added benefit of the outdoors to help motivate the pupils.
- The school has been fitted with water saving measures such as heating tanks and rain water harvesting for the WC facilities.

*"I'm very pleased and thrilled with it. It's certainly surpassed my expectations. I'm particularly impressed with the outdoor areas, including the playground. It's important that the outdoor areas are as high quality as the interior and they are."*

**Margaret Ainsworth, Head Teacher - Kings Infant School**

*everything considered.*