

Mendip School Design Review

Sir Robert
M^cALPINE



Project Overview

- Single storey special free school to accommodate 120 pupils with an age range of 4 – 19 years with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and Language and Social Communication Needs (LSCN).
- Total gross internal floor area of 2790 m²
- External areas comprising:
 - Grass football pitch – 3758 m²
 - Horticultural Area – 320 m²
 - Multi Use Game Area – 740 m²
 - ‘Golden Mile’ – 200 m²
 - KS4 and Post 16 / area for vulnerable pupils – 308 m²
 - Primary Playground – 285 m²
 - Outdoor classroom – 185 m²
 - Additional hard surfaces (paths, courtyard, etc) – 724 m²
- Contract Value £7,169,376 (including £537,392 FF&E Budget)

Time Line

- 17th November 2014: SRM appointed to second stage tender.
- 23rd November 2014: Design Team Appointed and design commenced.
- 27th February 2015: RIBA Stage 2 / 3 Design submitted for Planning Approval.
- 18th June 2015: Planning Approval Granted
- 20th July 2015: EFA Final Technical Review commenced (8 Weeks)
- 21st September 2015: Contract Sum Agreed
- 5th October 2015: Works commenced on site with completion programmed for 22nd September 2016 (44 week construction programme).
- 16th September 2016 - Practical completion achieved.

Design Solution – Space Heating

The Trust had a preference for under floor heating, which was investigated and rejected for the following reasons:

- Underfloor heating would restrict the possibility of future changes in cross wall locations.
- Engagement with staff at their Fosseway School site identified the following issues:

Underfloor heating disliked by reception / primary age teachers because a large proportion of teaching activities took place with pupils sat on floor.

Maintenance issues with leaking underfloor heating pipework.

Slow response time caused issues with out of hours / holiday use particularly with teaching conferences

Design Solution – Space Heating

The following alternatives were considered and rejected as either too costly, not meeting the functional requirements or in conflict with the Part L strategy:

- Warm Air Heating.
- Electric Panel Heaters.
- Ceiling mounted LTHW radiant panels – not suitable for the teaching spaces but adopted for circulation areas and the hall.

Design Solution – Space Heating Thermaskirt

Thermaskirt is a low surface temperature LTHW radiant skirting heating system manufactured by DiscreteHeat Company Limited.



The system is provided in three heights 155mm, 210mm & 270mm, the latter being a 4 pipe system with double the output.

The section can be installed on top of each other to increase output as required.

Design Solution – Space Heating Thermaskirt

