



KEY FACTS

Project:	New Islington Free School, Manchester
Main Contractor:	Conlon Construction
Programme:	20 Weeks
Size:	2 Storey school building

Modern educational spaces for the children of Manchester

THE BRIEF

New Islington Free School was developed in response to increasing demand for limited school places in Manchester city centre. It started life as a set of cabins on a car park and needed a permanent setting for the growing population of the regenerated area of the city. Funded by the Department for Education, the school needed to be spacious and inspirational providing lots of natural light for indoor spaces and plenty of outdoor space.

THE SOLUTION

Working in partnership with Conlon Construction, Premier Modular used a volumetric solution to provide a new school with 14 classrooms, an IT suite, and a high-specification sensory learning room. The double height school hall was created using a panelised system. The modern cladded design provided a great contrast to the old brick-built mills and factories that surround the site.

Cassidy and Ashton Architects also incorporated an oversailing roof, a skylight that ran the length of the building and picture windows which were all manufactured together in Premier's factory.



Innovation Collaboration Expertise



THE CHALLENGES

- The end classroom borders a canal and the plot was at an angle so the modules for that space were designed and manufactured at an angle to fit.
- The outdoor teaching space needed shade so the space was incorporated into the V-shaped pagoda feature at the end of the building.
- Natural light was a very important feature so a double height corridor with skylights were built to run the length of the school.

RESULTS

The city centre now has an Ofsted outstanding primary school which can accommodate 420 pupils aged 4 to 11. The internal teaching space is well lit as the skylight bathes the school in a channel of natural light. Internal classrooms are bright and spacious and are complemented by a rooftop teaching space and with bird and bat boxes and a Redstart habitat. The setting provides an interesting space for children to learn and grown in as they see their city develop around them.