



CASE STUDY: EDUCATION  
YSGOL AWEL Y MYNYDD









## Layout and Landscape

The new school is located on a greenfield site at the eastern edge of the Llandudno Junction catchment area, on land from two separate landholdings which were defined by a mature hedge and line of trees that ran across the site. The plan shape was designed to work with the existing contours of the land, maximising the potential of the site without creating too much cut and fill. A split level approach was taken which allowed the school to sit comfortably on the hillside.

The school is formed of two key elements, the Community Hub building and the Teaching Block, which are positioned to provide safe and secluded hard play areas that can be overseen by staff, and are easily accessible from all the lower ground floor classrooms. The majority of the existing hedge line and trees that ran through the centre of the site were retained, with just a small section removed to facilitate the building footprint. To offset this loss, the eastern boundary is being reinforced with new indigenous hedge and tree planting, to provide new habitat and foraging routes for local wildlife.

Within the building, as well as traditional teaching classrooms, the design provides a number of break out spaces and group rooms which encourage informal learning. Balconies and terraces provide opportunities for outdoor teaching, which are sheltered from the elements by the overhang of the roof canopy.

The external landscape provides more opportunities for learning with a wide variety of external play areas and equipment distributed across the hard and soft landscaped areas. A woodland walk has been designed through the site which leads to an area of newly planted trees, play equipment and an external amphitheatre. Planting beds near to the classrooms encourage the pupils to learn about kitchen garden planting.

A sports pitch and a multi-use games area are located to the north of the building, on the flattest part of the site.

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## YSGOL AWEL Y MYNYDD

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### Name of Building

Ysgol Awel Y Mynydd Area Primary School

### Completion Date

Autumn 2017

### Project Cost

£8.8 million

### Building Type

Education—Primary

### Location

Llandudno Junction, Conwy

### Client

Conwy County Borough Council

### Contractor

Read Construction

### Building Overview

Ysgol Awel Y Mynydd is Llandudno Junction's new 420 place primary school with associated nursery facilities, playing fields, community facilities and parking. The project is the first school in Conwy Council's 21st Century School Programme and provides modern accommodation for the amalgamation of two existing primary schools in the area.

The new school is located on what was a greenfield development site adjacent to the Welsh Government's North Wales Regional Headquarters on the eastern edge of Llandudno Junction. The site rises steeply to the South East and much of the level part of the site was set aside for the sports pitch and multi-use games area to provide suitable flat areas for playing sport. As a result the main school building had to be accommodated on a sloping part of the site, which in itself was a challenging part of the Design Brief. A split level solution was devised with the larger 'curved' wing following the natural site contours. The new school comprises two key elements, a 'Community Hub' accommodating the main hall, admin offices and meeting rooms, and a split level teaching block, served by a sinuous top lit link corridor providing shared teaching facilities.

To help the building fit into its rural environment, a palette of natural materials have been used including a sedum roof which can be viewed from the upper teaching level, larch cladding and stone walls. The building, which was built by local contractors Read Construction, is due to achieve a BREEAM Excellent rating and includes a range of sustainability strategies including passive solar gain, natural ventilation and photovoltaic panels.

