

Dunston Hill Community Primary School

Dunston Hill is a mixed primary school for students aged 3 to 11.

The main component of the school's curriculum is the National Curriculum with religious education being taught alongside. Children's school careers are divided into Foundation Stage (3-5), Key Stage 1 (5-7) and Key stage 2 (7-11). The school is open to children of all religions and creeds.

The two main existing buildings were built in the early 1900's. The gross internal area of the existing school buildings total 2,548 sq m.

The new school facilities will address the following areas of concern of the existing buildings.

- The school site is situated on one corner of a crossroads where the two major traffic routes of Dunston converge.
- The school has no green play areas. Access to playing fields is by crossing the main road in Dunston and walking half a mile.
- There are several separate buildings which no longer provide adequate or suitable accommodation for the 21st Century. The building layouts are unsatisfactory for an all through primary school as in effect the site is split. There is no central school hall with the existing spaces being multi-use and cramped. The school reception and Headteacher's offices are on a different floor level to the school's entrance.
- The running costs of the buildings are uneconomic.
- The classroom ceilings are all high level with excessive window heights. Solar gain in warm weather makes the environment particularly uncomfortable.

The new school building incorporates a building management system in the heating and ventilation system resulting in the energy efficient operation of the building.

Other facts about the new school facilities include:

- It will cater for 420 pupils and 30 place FTE nursery
- Construction of the new primary school on the Kingsmeadow site will not affect the education provision at the existing site during the construction period.
- The new school has 14 Reception, KS1 & KS2 classbases, learning zone area and group working areas.
- External facilities include a multi use games area and sports field to Sport England standards and access by arrangement to Kingsmeadow external facilities.

- Construction work on the new building scheduled to begin in February 2007.
- New school building ready for occupation for the start of the Autumn Term 2008/2009.
- External works complete in Spring Term 2008/2009.