

Kingsmeadow Community Comprehensive School

The school is a mixed comprehensive school for students aged 11 to 16.

In line with the National Curriculum these pupils are grouped in years 7 to 11. A broad-based curriculum is followed in years 7 to 9 leading up to Key stage 3 SATS. In years 10 and 11 students follow courses leading to public examinations and vocational qualifications both of which provide foundation for Further or Higher Education. The school offers a daily act of worship and is open to children of all religious faiths and creeds.

The school is made up of several blocks including 3 temporary classrooms, most dating from the 1960's and early 1970's. The school's gross internal area is 7,810m². The Lifelong Learning Centre is not part of the Gateshead Schools PFI Project.

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

- Most of the school buildings present serious disabled access problems. Access to the Sports Hall is by sets of steps.
- Many of the specialist teaching areas e.g. technology, suffer from outdated and inappropriate fixed layouts. There are insufficient science teaching areas.
- The Dining Centre is isolated from the main building and has no bad weather provision. Pupils can be dining whilst being wet/cold.

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

Other facts about the new school facilities include:

- It will cater for 900 pupils
- The gross internal floor area of the new school facilities (including Dunston Hill Primary) is 10,372m² over two floors.
- Construction has been planned and programmed so there is no need for temporary classrooms.
- Work represents a capital investment in the region of £20 million (including Dunston Hill primary)
- The new school has 21 general classrooms, 3 ICT rooms, 6 science laboratories, together with design, technology, art and music classrooms.
- External facilities include a floodlit multi use games area, artificial turf sports pitch and sports field to Sport England standards.
- Construction work on the new buildings began in February 2006.

- The majority of classrooms will be ready for occupation for the start of the Summer Term 2006/2007. Remainder of the new school building ready for occupation for the start of the Autumn Term 2008/2009.
- Following demolition of old school buildings, external works complete in Spring Term 2008/2009.