



## 3-Classroom Block at Biggleswade Academy, Bedfordshire

**Client:** Biggleswade Academy Trust

**Project value:** £770k

### Problem:

Biggleswade Academy is a state-funded school that delivers education for a wide age range of pupils, from the age of two upwards. The Academy occupies a 24 acre site with a mixture of building styles and types. A special school in the Biggleswade area (Ivel Valley) had need for an extra classroom with facilities for children with moderate learning difficulties and physical impairment, whilst the Academy also needed space for two classes of children due to an increasing school roll.

### Solution:

PCMS Design carried out a feasibility study for the Academy Trust, which readily identified that the site did have enough space for a new free standing block of classrooms. However, the suitable plot was not without challenges; a modular unit was in the way, as was a disused outdoor swimming pool. Our concept design allowed for three separate classroom entrances, which was a client requirement, and also had sufficient flexibility for the classrooms to be used for primary pupils, and special needs pupils in the future. Because of this, there are lots of ancillary spaces for specialist support functions, such as a changing and wet room. We also carried out the project management and construction administration during the build.

### Result:

A smart new building has been created which is both functional and has also improved the overall presentation of this part of the site. A standing seam barrel roof is a notable building feature, together with off-white rendered walls and external Perspex play canopies. The internal spaces feature bright acoustic wall panels and suspended ceiling panels, and colourful but practical fixtures and fittings Deputy Principal Shelley Flynn said: "Our project had tight timescales in order to be ready for pupils and their teachers this September. PCMS Design were invaluable in managing the project process which, along with their superb design skills, has delivered a great building. The Academy now has a modern, well-designed classroom block that everyone is proud of."