



# learn

## Chester Blue Coat CE Primary School : New Build, 2 Form Entry school



### Project Profile

**Client :** Chester DBE  
**Value:** £5M  
**On site:** February 2012  
**Programme:** 68 Weeks  
**Contractor:** Bardsley  
Construction  
Ltd.  
**Contract:** JCT 98

Further to undertaking a feasibility study on behalf of Cheshire West and Chester, in 2011 we were appointed by Chester Diocesan Board of Education as Lead Consultant and Architect for the design and procurement of a new build, fully integrated, two-form entry primary school and associated external works for Chester Bluecoat CE Primary School.

A two-storey solution was developed in response to the existing site constraints and the necessity to phase the works to maintain operation capacity of the existing Schools. To ensure a holistic school environment the foundation and infant ground floor teaching spaces are linked to the first floor junior spaces by a 'teaching street' at ground level and an overlooking 'balcony 'street' at first floor level.

Cross-laminated timber (CLT) was chosen for the School's superstructure primarily for

its sustainable credentials, its efficiency in delivering the two storey solution together with the design flexibility of the product.

Visual grade CLT was used to express the volume of the large hall and an external wall in every classroom.

The cantilevered, visual grade, CLT balcony accentuates the horizontal circulation throughout the School, and negates the need for structural supports interrupting the 'street' below.

The use of visual grade CLT within the project was also a significant factor with regards to its associated contribution to the internal environment of the School where the tactile quality and inherent warmth of the wood has been described as providing a peaceful, natural and calming environment for the children.

The building and immediate external works were completed ahead of programme.