

Thames Park Secondary School

Project	Thames Park	Value	£24m
Client	Department for Education (DfE)	Location	Grays, Essex
Contractor	Bowmer & Kirkland (B&K)	GIFA	6950
Architect	Stride Treglown	Completion	September 2022



Photo by B&K

NEED

Aside from the urgent need for school spaces, Thames Park Secondary School's vision was to provide a high-quality, comprehensive, and meaningful education for all students, by delivering a safe and inspirational new environment where high standards and expectations encourage success.

The new project consisted of two buildings, a three-storey teaching block and a separate sports block with two external multi-use game areas – an all-weather synthetic court, turf sports pitches, and a running track.

Following public meetings and extensive collaboration between key stakeholders and the local community, as well as those within the supply chain, offsite construction of the project was the chosen solution to minimise impact on the surrounding area.

SOLUTION

Innovaré supporting Bowmer & Kirkland delivered the £24m Thames Park School through the DfE Offsite Framework. The proposed designs and plans for the school were carefully considered, with collaboration between project partners, staff at the school and the Design Review Panel at Thurrock Council. The Innovaré team managed the structural design, manufacture, and installation.

Thames Park was constructed utilising a hybrid offsite approach incorporating Innovaré's i-FAST panelised solution, integrating windows and external brick slips to the ground floor and cladding above. Roof cassettes were by Pasquils and pre-cast concrete floors by Creagh Concrete, with M&E specialist DBS supporting the fit-out solution for the plant room offsite.



OUTCOME

Taking the majority of the build offsite and using scaffold-less installation improved onsite health and safety. The project was 100% safe with zero hours lost to RIDDORS and accidents.

Utilising offsite manufacture also allowed for a higher quality finish, with a robust testing and quality checking system to reduce ongoing maintenance.

Basing the design on CIBSE, BS – U-Values as low as 0.21w/m²k were achieved, reducing energy requirements for the lifetime of the school. Insulated wall panels and precast concrete floors also allow enhanced temperature management, reducing heating and cooling costs and associated carbon output.

Innovaré's input assisted in the delivery of 'Configure Offsite 3.0' – a mature standardised yet flexible school solution, designed to exceed the stringent requirements of the DfE's output specification and also reduce construction duration by 30%.

The collaborative approach taken during the project culminated in enhanced Pre-Manufactured Value, reduced onsite construction time and minimised environmental impact. This further improved construction quality and health and safety.

From concept to completion, the development delivered both cost and programme certainty, ensuring the new £24m state-of-the-art secondary school will open on schedule, providing a high-quality academic environment for 900 students.

Headteacher of Thames Park, Kam Bains, said:

"We are delighted and excited by the opportunity to deliver outstanding learning facilities and a permanent home for the wonderful students at Thames Park Secondary School. Thurrock students deserve the very best education in a happy and high achieving school."

Paul Griffiths, Chief Executive Officer of Osbourne Co-operative Academy Trust, said:

"We have worked very closely with the main contractors Bowmer & Kirkland and the DfE on the design of our new school and we feel the educational principles and digital vision that drive this project have been keenly thought through, so that this development delivers more than just a state-of-the-art school, but also a community facility that serves the local area and enhances the landscape in which it sits."

