





## St Marys Catholic Voluntary Academy



Construction is complete on the innovative eco-building for St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy in Derby, following a fire that destroyed the previous school. This biophilic school is part of a pilot scheme for the Department for Education. Biophilic design increases occupant connectivity to nature, promoting physical and mental health, and the building is net zero carbon in operation.

Innovaré Offsite supported the design, engineering, manufacture, and installation of the sustainable superstructure. The timber-constructed school uses Innovaré's Psi-FAST panels, designed for fire safety, thermal, and acoustic insulation, and loadbearing capabilities. Psi-FAST panels have an A1-rated non-combustible board and class 0 surface spread of flame rating, offering 60 minutes of standalone fire resistance.

The single-storey school includes a primary school and nursery with pavilions arranged along a central canopy. Each age group has a shared learning space, and the entrance building features a hall and communal areas. The buildings are naturally ventilated with solar panels and heated via air source heat pumps. Green roofs enhance biodiversity and local ecology.

| Project                     | St Marys Catholic Voluntary Academy                                |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Client                      | Department for Education   |
| Contractor                  | Tilbury Douglas  |
| Architect                   | Hawkins Brown Architects   |
| Value                       | £12m   |
| Location                    | Derby, Derbyshire.   |
| Completion Date             | June 2023  |
| Innovare duration<br>onsite | 12 Weeks   |
| GIFA                        | 2300 m²  |
| Framework                   | This is a DfE pathfinder project – the UKs first Biophilic school. |
| Sustainability              | Net Zero Carbon in operation                                       |
| Innovaré System             | Psi-FAST   |







## Tilbury Douglas's Project Manager, Neil Holland, said:

"I have previously delivered six school projects for the DfE. This is the first time I have used a SIPs system, and it has been a real gamechanger.

The project is moving at considerable pace and the quality that is being delivered is excellent and complementary to our Tilbury Douglas 'Right-First Time' approach."

Hundven Clements Photography

