

Co Op Academy Florence MacWilliams

EDUCATION SECTOR - CASE STUDY



Bowmer + Kirkland Construction Ltd - Photo



Delivered in partnership with Bowmer + Kirkland Ltd and the Department for Education the Co-op Academy Florence MacWilliams (CAFMW) is a new state secondary school in Meir, Stoke-on-Trent. It is part of the Co-op Academies Trust, which aims to provide quality education with a focus on community values.

The school opened in September 2024 with its first Year 7 class of 120 students in temporary buildings. Followed by a purpose-built facility that opened in September 2025, this aligns with a phased growth plan that will see capacity increase to 1,150 students aged 11–19 by 2030.

This new three-story school has been delivered in partnership with Bowmer + Kirkland Ltd and the Department for Education. It offers a welcoming and inclusive learning environment and facilities include a full-size 3G sports pitch, multi-use games areas, playing fields, a running track, and modern classrooms designed for flexibility and future growth.

Innovaré's Low Carbon Fire Safe i-FAST offsite panelised system has been used to create a Low Risk Rapid Build wrap solution delivering a fast, efficient, and sustainable building envelope with excellent airtightness, high-level U-values, and minimal thermal bridging. The i-FAST panels come with factory-fitted windows and exterior cladding, which ensures consistent quality. The combination of Brick Slips and Swiss pearl cladding creates a durable, low-maintenance exterior with an enhanced appearance. This advanced level of pre-manufacture not only accelerates the construction timeline by enabling faster creation of weather tight structures but also reduces on-site risks and variability. By leveraging the controlled factory environment, our approach ensures higher quality interfaces, improved air tightness, and overall enhanced performance, delivering both efficiency and consistency across the build process.

The Co-op Academy Florence MacWilliams exemplifies a modern approach to educational infrastructure, designed to meet the growing demand for high-quality secondary education in Stoke-on-Trent. The project embraces modern methods of construction (MMC) to accelerate delivery, enhance sustainability, and ensure long-term performance.

Project Name	Co Op Academy Florence MacWilliams
Client	Department for Education
Contractor	Bowmer + Kirkland
Architect	Strides Treglown
Installation Team	Plot Form Ltd.
Overall total project value	£2.17m
Framework	MMC1
Location	Stoke on Trent
Innovaré Product i-FAST & Size?	i-FAST
Innovaré Solution (Wrap, infill, full structure etc)	Wrap
Total GIFA m ²	Gross wall area 4732 m ²
Completion Date	Aug-25