

Acer Academy

SEND Sector- Case Study



Designed by Pick Everard Architects and delivered in Partnership with Main Contractor Bowmer + Kirkland, Innovare offsite were appointed to manufacture and install our award winning Low Carbon Fire Safe i-FAST panelised system for the new Acer Academy in Salford.

Acer Academy is a purpose-built, single-storey SEND school for pupils aged 11–16 with Autism and Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH) needs. Operating as a free school under Kings Academy Trust, the academy provides a highly specialised and inclusive learning environment, underpinned by research-based teaching approaches that support pupils to reach their full potential.

Innovaré delivered the full structural solution using our Low Carbon Fire Safe 384mm i-FAST panels, incorporating factory fitted windows and external cladding. This approach enabled a high proportion of the building's value to be created offsite, improving quality, programme certainty, safety, and environmental performance.

Innovaré maximised pre-manufactured value on Acer Academy through our integrated i-FAST panelised system, which combines structure, fire safety, thermal and acoustic performance into a single standalone solution. By including factory fitted windows and external cladding, the panels arrived on site ready for rapid installation, delivering a complete Low Risk Rapid Build solution direct from factory to site.

The i-FAST panel is engineered to form external and internal walls, providing exceptional structural integrity and loadbearing strength. Each panel delivers enhanced fire resistance, thermal efficiency, and acoustic performance, while reducing on-site labour and programme risk.

This integrated approach minimised design concessions, supported intelligent value engineering, and accelerated the construction programme compared to traditional build methods.

Now complete, Acer Academy provides specialist education for 65 pupils aged 11–16 with a diagnosis of Autism and SEMH needs. The finished school delivers safe, supportive, and high-quality learning spaces designed to promote wellbeing, inclusion, and long term educational outcomes.

Project Name	Acer Academy
Client	Kings Academy
Contractor	Bowmer + Kirkland
Architect	Pick Everard
Installation Team	ATE Ltd
Overall Total Project Value	£8m
Framework	MMC1
Location	Salford
Innovaré Product	384mm i-FAST
Innovaré Solution	Full Structure
Total GIFA m ²	2001 m ²
Project Completion Date	August 2025