

John F Kennedy Special School

SEND Sector- Case Study



Apex Contractors Photography

John F Kennedy Special School in Beckton, East London provides specialist education for secondary and post 16 learners with autism spectrum conditions and complex communication needs. To support growing demand, a newly completed SEND extension has expanded the school's capacity from 60 to 100 students, alongside associated remodelling works to the existing building.

Innovaré was appointed as subcontractor to deliver the building, designing supplying and installing our low carbon fire safe i FAST panels to form the primary structure of the new two storey teaching block. The extension provides high quality specialist learning spaces designed to support students with ASD while enhancing the overall functionality and presence of the school.

Innovaré delivered its SIPs solution using i FAST panels to form the walls, floors and roof structure of the extension. Manufactured offsite in our controlled factory environment, the system enabled rapid on site assembly, high levels of thermal performance and airtightness, and reduced material waste. As the structure took shape, external elements including zinc cladding, windows and roofing followed quickly, with the building becoming weathertight and allowing internal fit out works to commence earlier than with traditional construction methods.

Internally, classrooms have been designed as low arousal learning environments with simple layouts, restrained material palettes and built in storage to reduce visual clutter. Dual aspect glazing maximises natural daylight, supporting a calm and legible internal environment suited to specialist teaching and learning.

The project incorporates a strong sustainability strategy, including air source heat pumps and photovoltaic panels across both the new and existing buildings. These technologies are supported



by a highly energy efficient SIPs envelope, helping the school to achieve net zero carbon in use and reduced long term operational energy demand.

The completed extension delivers a modern and inclusive education environment tailored to the needs of ASD learners. Specialist teaching spaces are supported by a large multipurpose hall, food technology and mini enterprise facilities, as well as a new community café and shared space that strengthens links with the local neighbourhood. External areas have also been enhanced to include a multipurpose gym supporting physical development and pupil regulation.

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| Project Name | JFK Special School- John F Kennedy Special School |
| Client | Newham Council |
| Contractor | Apex Contractors Ltd |
| Architect | Rivington Street Studio |
| Installation Team | Mint |
| Total Project Value | £5.5m |
| Location | Beckton |
| Innovaré Product | i-FAST |
| Innovaré Solution | Full Structure |
| Total GIFA | 730m ² |
| Completion Date | December 2025 |