

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.

Working as a specialist subcontractor to Apex Contractors Ltd, Innovaré designed, supplied and installed our low carbon, fire safe i-FAST panel solution for the primary structure of the new two-storey extension, contributing to the overall building design. 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.

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