



Project Reference:
E072C6

Project Title:
School Toilets
Refurbishment,
Bath Community
Academy
Rush Hill,
Bath,
BA2 2QL

Duration:
16th July 2012 -
26th October 2012.

Cost:
£368,214k

Main Contractor:
Bray & Slaughter

Bath Community Academy

Toilets Refurbishment

Bath & North East Somerset Council's Building Consultancy department were commissioned to refurbish the existing toilet facilities and complete a modern reception area to welcome Bath Community Academy's new students and visitors. The project was led by Senior Architect Jonathan Hook who worked closely with chosen Contractor Bray & Slaughter.

The original school buildings were completed in 1956 and was administered by Bath Education Authority as a 'Secondary Modern' and originally named Westhill Boys School. In 1973, the school was merged with City of Bath Technical School to form a boy's comprehensive and was renamed and remained as Culverhay School until recently.



New open plan entrance



Old and dated facilities

Following government approval in 2011 to save closure of the school, Culverhay was set to become a Sponsored Academy run by the Cabot Learning Federation. Bath Community Academy opened on 1st September 2012 and has been re-established as a co-educational Secondary Academy with a clear structure and vision to create an outstanding standard of education for its pupils. To compliment the Academy's new image, a great deal of funding from Bath & North East Somerset Council's School's Capital and Organisation Team (S.C.O.T.) has gone into the building layout to update the building's appearance and facilities.



Old toilet cubicle area



Old cluttered toilets

The school's toilets were an integral part of the co-ed works, with the need to change the boys toilet areas into a unisex facility. The existing toilet areas were very outdated, in need of repainting, and with one abandoned toilet area being used as a storage room following the reduction of pupil numbers.

The improvements involved the removal of the existing urinals and replacing them with a row of cubicles to allow flexibility and future use of the toilets for both boys and girls. The cubicles are made of solid grade, high pressure laminate which makes them very robust for heavy use. The cubicles and vanity units consist of modern and unisex colours using Dark Grey, Vanilla and Red panels and pillars. Non slip flooring has been fitted for practical and safety reasons. The walls and ceilings have been decorated using a neutral and fresh Eggshell White colour.

Energy efficiency has been considered throughout the toilet refurbishment, with low volume flushing to all fittings, Passive Infra Red (P.I.R.) taps have been fitted to the hand basins to minimise water usage, and energy efficient, high performance hand dryers have been fitted throughout; using the Dyson 'Airblade' hand dryer for 'toilets 1 and 2' and the automatic Vent Axia 'Tempest' Satin Stainless Steel hand dryer for the remainder toilets. All toilet areas have also been provided with low energy light fittings.

The entrance to the toilet areas have also been designed as open plan with no external door in order to increase the safety of pupils and

aims to reduce the threat of bullying activity within the school.

As part of the enabling contract of the toilet area, asbestos was found to be present in the walls which have asbestos lagged pipes running through them. This asbestos / lagging had to be removed safely before the refurbishment work could begin, due to the proposed removal of a wall in the 'toilet 3' area.

The project started mid July 2012 and was completed in 2 Phases, with Phase 1 being completed for the new school opening in September 2012; in which the ground floor toilets were finished and ready for use. The first floor toilet area consisting of 3 cubicles, 2 hand basins and 2 hand-driers was then scheduled for completion on 26th October 2012 as part of the Phase 2 works.

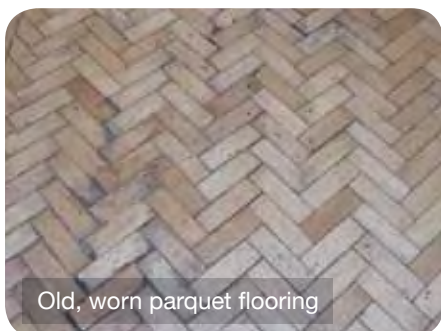
Also as part of the Phase 1 works, the ground floor main reception was refurbished to a high and modern standard and ready for the start of the school term on the 1st of September. The reception area was also relocated back to its original location on the North elevation side of the building, as it was previously positioned on the North East side of the building, which wasn't practical and was a lot smaller.

The reception area has been designed to also be DDA compliant, with the welcome desk also including a lower level writing desk which is suitable for any pupils or visitors who are unable to reach the higher surface, such as wheelchair users. As part of the refit, the reception area's four window frames were also replaced to upgrade the appearance and safety of the building, and fitted with Hag roller shutters on the interior.

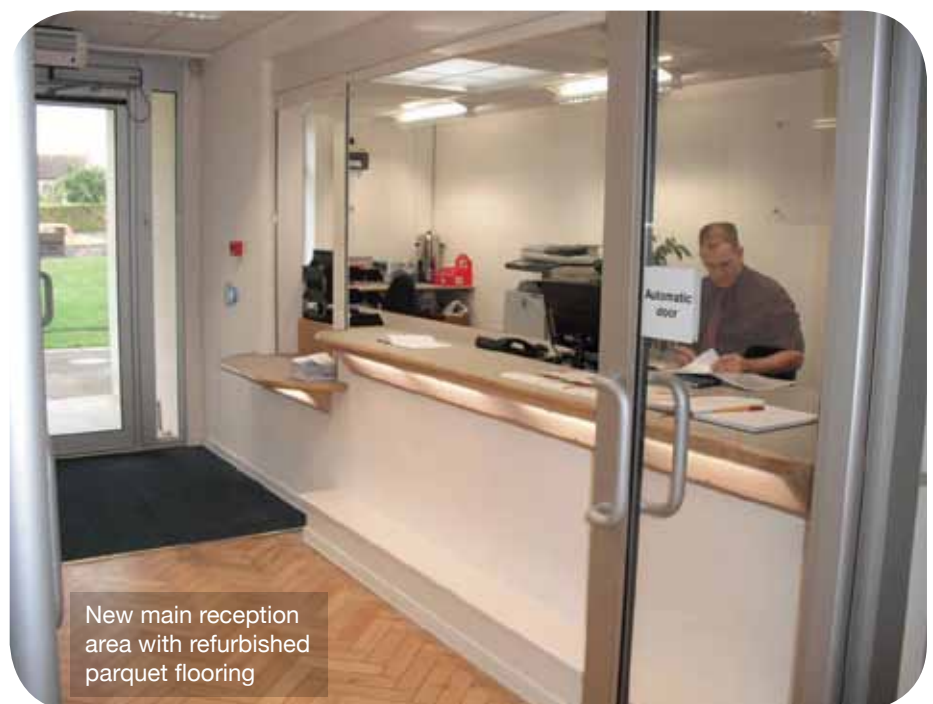
The flooring is a great feature to the reception area, yet was very inexpensive as the existing traditional but worn parquet wood flooring was retained and given a facelift by simply sanding and re-varnishing it, using a floor stain which compliments the wooden edged reception desk.

New DDA compliant automatic doors were fitted to the reception area, with hard wearing matting placed just inside the entrance using Burmatex Charcoal colour zigzag matting, to reduce the amount of underfoot soiling to the parquet flooring.

The overall clean and modern look of the refurbishment provides a much needed fresh start to the image of the new Academy.



Old, worn parquet flooring



New main reception area with refurbished parquet flooring