

Extended and refurbished Howth Road Mixed National School opened

26 February 2019

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The interesting project entailed the refurbishment and extension of the existing three-classroom mixed national school on a very restricted urban site.

Atkins provided a multidisciplinary team including architecture, structural and civil engineering, fire safety engineering, health and safety and building services; and its sister company Faithful+Gould provided in-house building and quantity surveying expertise.

The site is about 1,690m² and is tightly bounded on all sides. The existing school building, dating from 1890, is built of exposed granite stone with red brick reveals around windows and doors and grey flat cement tiles on the roof. The church and the school read as one complex with a low metal fence dividing the sites.

The project involved the refurbishment of the existing three-classroom school and the construction of a new single storey extension to the rear with two-storey extension to the front.

The new extension was designed to wrap around the existing school to ensure that natural light would enter the new rooms/classroom in the extension.

The design also allowed the existing walls of the hall – now internal walls in the building – to be exposed and to create the link between old and new.

The introduction of rooflights throughout the new extension and the existing hall were introduced to bring as much light in as possible, creating a light-filled building. The school colours are strong primary colours, bearing in mind the end users of the building.



L-R: Richard Dawson, Atkins; Minister Richard Bruton; Fidelma Lucey, Atkins

Form designed to stand out against existing school and hall

The new extension materials and design are determinably modern, with the form designed to stand out against the existing school and hall. The school also has been designed to accommodate people with disabilities by installing a ramp to the new entrance.

Martina Finn, technical director, Atkins Ireland, said: "We are delighted to be involved in this project, which is an important cornerstone for the local community.

"There were some challenges on the project including the fact that the school is of local historical significance and, along with that, we had to ensure that the station remained live and operational for the staff and pupils throughout the lifetime of the project.

"Through close collaboration with the board of management at all times throughout the project we were able to deliver a successful project design."