

# Mercia School, Sheffield

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In 2017, Sheffield Council and the Mercia Learning Trust embarked on an ambitious, £25million school in the Bannerdale area of south-west Sheffield.

Upon announcing the project, Mercia Learning Trust commented: "The offer of Mercia School will be very different. We intend it to be a traditional school with its culture rooted in exceptionally high behavioural standards and an academic curriculum which celebrates mastery of knowledge."



## Objectives and Challenges

Educational excellence was the common theme that ran throughout the project brief, ensuring that the school would provide an optimal space for learning, development and achievement.

All contractors and building products were chosen with this aim in mind, meaning that every aspect of the build would adhere to these high standards and contribute to the enhanced learning environment. Zehnder's multi-service foil, developed with lighting specialists Whitecroft Lighting, provided the ideal solution for the school's science classrooms, combining heating, lighting and acoustic services within one easy-to-install solution.

The build was approved in April 2017 and completed in September 2018.

## Key Considerations

- ▶ £25million invested by Mercia Learning Trust and Sheffield City Council
- ▶ Brand new secondary school and sixth form building for 11-18 year olds
- ▶ Modern building facilities to deliver a traditional academic environment
- ▶ Ergonomic furniture and room design throughout
- ▶ Save space and not disrupt the learning environment
- ▶ Aesthetically aligned to the building design
- ▶ Cost-efficiency

# The Solution

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## 1. The Solution

Over 200 foil radiant luminaires were installed in the science classrooms.

The ergonomic furniture design in the classroom resulted in a lack of space for heating services against the wall. Thus, integrating both the heating and acoustic services into a single lighting feature ensured an uncluttered space matching the teaching and learning environment that had been envisaged by both the architect and the Mercia Learning Trust, to support the vision and values of the school.

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"This project revolved around quality, precision and efficiency, so it was vital that every aspect contributed directly to the aim of creating an optimal environment for academic excellence. Having a combined heating and lighting solution allowed us to meet requirements in terms of efficiency, space-savings, ease of installation and cost management, so using the multi-service foil was a simple choice to make."

Martin Sibley, BAM Construction

## 2. The Product: Multi - service foil

The multi-service foil has been jointly engineered with lighting specialists Whitecroft Lighting, as a specialist solution for educational facilities and commercial spaces. The foil's integrated design is unlike any other solution on the market, due to the number of functions it houses in one panel.

### Product Benefits

- ▶ Space saving: combining heating, lighting and acoustics in one unit
- ▶ Radiant panels: savings in excess of 20% vs traditional heating systems
- ▶ Silent operation: enhancing the quality of the learning environment for students and staff
- ▶ Ease of install: a single install reduces risk of delay to the building programme
- ▶ Simplicity: accessible for easy cleaning and maintenance
- ▶ Energy efficiency: reduces the school's carbon footprint

