



The school is conscious of its curriculum obligations in relation to swimming.

# Kitchens make way for a swimming pool

Granard School in Putney, London, has transformed its former kitchens sited beneath the assembly hall into a modern pool for student and community use.

**G**RANARD is one of the few primary state schools in Wandsworth with a new swimming pool and, ultimately, the facility will be opened up to the other 12 primary schools that belong to its 'cluster', as well as to the public in the form of adult swim lessons for example.

Swimming has not been a strong area to date, compared with other school sporting achievements. The findings from a feasibility study showed that although 98% of the parents felt that being able to swim was an important life skill, a very low percentage of the pupils at the school could actually swim more than five metres.

## Curriculum

"The combination of the National Curriculum stating that children should be able to swim 25 metres by the age of 11, at the end of Key Stage 2, and the chance of providing some very valuable Extended Services at the school made us take the plunge to go ahead with the pool plans as soon as the resources came through for the new kitchen," explains head teacher Glynis Cobb. "Perhaps it's even a venture which will inspire other schools to reflect on their needs and how they can be accommodated in-house by making better use of and modifying existing facilities". In addition, the use of the pool will help Granard school to promote pupil wellbeing and meet the fitness objectives of the Healthy Schools Programme."

Brocklehurst Architects were designers

on the project, with London Swimming Pool Company as specialist pool contractor. The pool measures 12.5 metres in length, thus making two lengths a clear goal for the pupils to aim for to meet the Curriculum requirement.

A light blue blend ceramic mosaic tiled interior finish is complemented by stainless steel fittings. The UV water treatment system from Triogen ensures clear water quality requiring minimal

wave reducing technology incorporated in the floats along the competition lane ropes, which leave the surface of the water as flat as possible. The pool hall features showers and toilets and accommodation for disabled access and the pool itself is designed with training steps allowing for limited mobility users.

[www.brocklehurst.com](http://www.brocklehurst.com)

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## schools can make better use of – and modify – their existing facilities

chlorine and other chemicals that can irritate asthma sufferers and users with respiratory difficulties. The AHU is the latest type of equipment using a condensing boiler for its primary heat. The unit is also equipped with a heat recovery system to help to keep the utility costs down.

The swimming pool steps incorporate a non-slip tiled surface, each step edge is tiled with a contrasting coloured edge tile. The external vertical corners of the pool are finished with a stainless edge bead to prevent potential injuries.

Particularly helpful for beginners is the

## Extended services

Schools in Wandsworth are working with a number of local organisations and companies to provide Extended Services. The Council has spent more than £1m on a range of projects in the borough's schools in the last three years. These initiatives include new IT suites, upgrading playgrounds and sports facilities, breakfast clubs and after school care, family and adult learning and parenting support.