

Ashgate Croft School, Derbyshire

Hydrotherapy Pool

The children at Ashgate Croft School now enjoy all the emotional and physical benefits of hydrotherapy and have the chance to learn to swim following the opening of a hydrotherapy pool in the school grounds.

The Client

Ashgate Croft School, Chesterfield, is the largest school for children with special needs in Derbyshire. It offers a full range of opportunities for over 140 children aged between 3 and 19. The school once had its own swimming pool but this fell into disrepair and had to be demolished. Although some pupils were able to swim at a nearby public pool, this was not without its logistics problems and sessions were often cancelled.

Realising that the only way pupils could derive the benefits of hydrotherapy on a regular basis was by having a pool on school grounds, a major appeal called "A Pool for Megan" was launched. This received considerable support and sufficient funds were raised to allow the project to proceed. Pinelog won the contract to build the new hydrotherapy pool – its long experience in this market giving it the edge.

The Specification

The main structure houses a 12m x 6m hydrotherapy pool with a constant depth of 1.2m and a number of changing

facilities to meet the various needs of users. All the facilities are on one level and are connected by a specialised overhead electric hoist which can take users to showers, toilets and to the pool.

It is clad with facing bricks up to 2.5m high and vertical Siberian larch panels to the roof. Siberian larch was chosen because it is hard, durable and requires little maintenance. Wide automatic entry aluminium doors finished in contrasting bright blue and yellow allow easy access for those in wheelchairs.

The vaulted timber roof combined with high level glazing provides an open, light-filled environment. The insulated pool has several easy methods of entry and operates at 33°C – very warm water being essential for hydrotherapy treatment. The bacteria levels are controlled by an ultra-violet treatment system and climate control equipment maintains a constant air temperature of 34°C.

Slip resistant floor tiles surround the pool and the walls and floors in the changing areas are finished with hygienic, heavy duty welded vinyl sheet. The pool can also be transformed into a full sensory environment with the use of specialist lighting, sound system and fun floats.



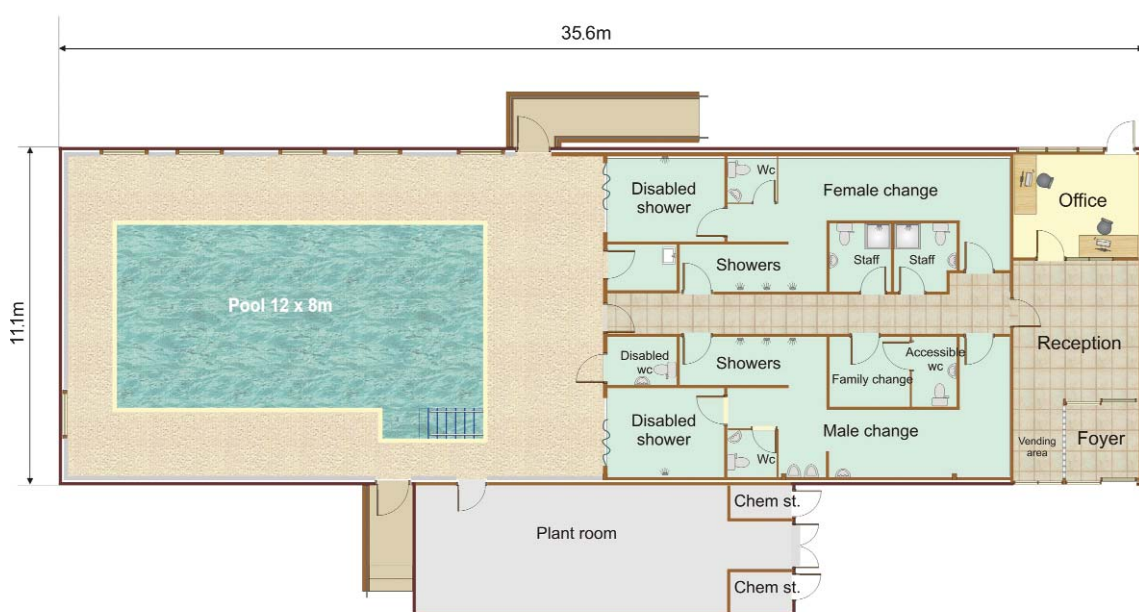


Client Benefits

Head teacher Mike Meaton said: "A swimming pool at this school is as important as a classroom. Swimming gives an enormous boost in self-confidence and is sometimes the only chance pupils have to get out of a wheelchair and undertake physical activity. This wonderful pool means that all our children have the chance to learn to swim and have hydrotherapy classes to meet their needs."

"Pinelog has done more than build us a pool – they've helped us build brighter futures for the children."

Client: Ashgate Croft School
 Location: Chesterfield, Derbyshire



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