

# Seashell

## The Moulding Foundation Building

A new home to Royal School Manchester  
Impact Report, Autumn 2023



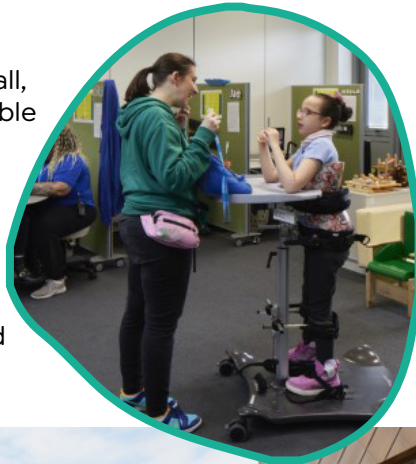
Proud to be

  
**Ofsted**  
Outstanding  
Provider

# The Moulding Foundation Building

Opened in February 2023, this state-of-the-art facility, sensitively designed by FaulknerBrowns is the new home to Royal School Manchester, as well as shared spaces for Royal College Manchester and community users.

The building includes; the Margaret Mason Hall, an assembly hall for 200 people with retractable seating, the Weston Dining Hall offering all students a chance to dine together, The Zochonis Assessment Suite, with a high-tech audiology testing room, not to mention a swimming centre comprising The Bertie Broome Swimming Pool, complete with moveable floor and self-depositing steps and The BAND Trust Hydrotherapy Pool.



When you go round from room to room, you see the thought, the consideration, the planning, the consultation, that has produced this remarkable building. We have great ambitions for our students and we need the facilities to move forward." **Sir Warren Smith, Seashell President**



We have pledged to redevelop our entire campus to create facilities that set the gold standard for all special education establishments. Over the past decade, we are proud to have built Sir Norman Stoller Way, a close of 17 residential care homes, an all-weather sports pitch, The Bradbury Cycling Centre - an inclusive cycle track and trail, and of course The Moulding Foundation Building.

**Our ambitions don't stop there.**

*"Our vision is for Seashell to be one of the most inspirational settings in the world for the education and care of children and young adults with the most complex needs."*

**Brandon Leigh, Chief Executive**





Every part of the building has been acoustically designed in such a way to ensure little or no reverberation. Whether it be individual classrooms or the large assembly and dining halls, the needs of students with a hearing impairment or autistic spectrum disorders have been considered.

“The Margaret Mason Hall replicates the feeling of a professional concert hall or sports hall - this helps students prepare to access similar environments outside of Seashell.

**Emma Houldcroft, Royal School Manchester Head Teacher**

## A fully inclusive space...

Hoists in classrooms and shared spaces, combined with wide corridors ensure **every student** has access to **every space**.

Wheelchair users can navigate their way around the space more freely. A staff member commented: *“Transitioning is so much smoother now - in the old school, a lot of time was wasted manoeuvring mobility equipment around from room to room. Some students simply could not access certain areas, whereas now everyone can access everywhere, which is just amazing.”*

## Promoting independence

The spacious corridors and pass-protected doors also support independent transitions, allowing students to safely travel around the building throughout the school day.

Two accessible life skills rooms provide the opportunity to develop valuable skills needed both now and for the future.



Life Skills Room

## Sensory & physical

Eight different sensory, light stimulation and low arousal rooms are available, with support from specialist Assistive Technologists. These immersive spaces help teachers and Learning Support Assistants to meet the variety of sensory needs of each student, and are also helpful to bring students with challenging behaviours into a more positive calm space.

The purpose built Beaverbrooks Rebound Suite has allowed more students to access this impactful therapy.



Beaverbrooks Rebound Suite



Magic Carpet Sensory Room



Margaret Mason Hall





Weston Dining Hall

## Aidan's Story

Imagine not being able to relax and enjoy social spaces, or even have your lunch with your peers? This was the case for Royal School Manchester student, Aidan, who before moving into The Moulding Foundation Building would spend most of his school days in a room to himself, as the communal areas were too uncomfortably noisy and bright for him to tolerate.



Music/Gamelan Room

After getting accustomed to his new, carefully designed classroom in The Moulding Foundation Building, as well as the acoustically treated communal rooms, Aidan has been able to develop his ability to share spaces with his classmates, making new friends in the process. Aidan now explores his surroundings safely and even navigates his way to the dining hall at meal times.

Aidan's teacher, Emily said: *"This has been truly life changing for Aidan. He now not only feels safe and comfortable in communal areas at school, but also has been able to access activities outside school that were just not possible before. With the combined effort of his teachers, support staff and family, plus access to these state-of-the-art facilities, Aidan can now take part in more opportunities available to him and more importantly, enjoy doing so."*



Heartspace

*"Parents were consulted in the planning process for the school, which was excellent. It just shows the thought that has gone into it. The Moulding Foundation Building provides an uplifting and inviting environment. There is just so much space. The wide corridors allow students to transition independently and safely from room to room."*



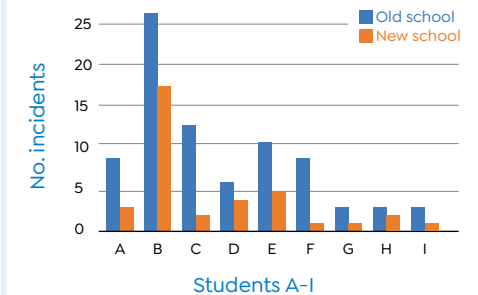
**Jonathan Battye, Seashell parent**

## Behaviours

The new building is a low-arousal, calm environment, and the increased space it provides enables more effective behaviour support.

Students have been showing a positive change in their behaviour since moving from the old school building, and overall the whole school cohort has seen a decrease of incidents within the classroom.

### Incident reduction during the first 3 months in the new school



Every classroom has immediate access to outdoor play areas





## Positive Behaviour Support *'Riding the Wave'*

Senior teachers at Royal School Manchester have introduced an innovative **Positive Behaviour Support** programme called **Riding the Wave**.

The children and young adults at Seashell can experience heightened emotions, triggered by changes in routine and physical environments. Teaching staff are well attuned to recognising students' emotional states, and have introduced an innovative data capturing tool to help identify and reflect on when students are more or less stimulated

to learn. Riding the Wave documents a student's mood throughout the day, acknowledging external factors that may have contributed to positive behaviours, or those of concern.

Senior Teacher at Royal School Manchester said: *"This approach is student led, and uses behaviours as a form of communication, allowing students to express their personal preferences on what activities they prefer, rooms they feel most comfortable in and more importantly, which situations they find difficult to tolerate. From 'very anxious' to 'calm', to 'highly receptive' - behaviours are monitored on a regular basis, throughout the day."*

The Moulding Foundation Building gives staff, for the first time,

the ability to adapt spaces to compliment students 'sensory diet' - sensory input needed to stay focused throughout the day. Factors such as lighting, sound and temperature can transform a room and bring a student into the right place to learn.

A parent commented on the project saying: *"Riding the wave is a fantastic tool, and acts as a good handover point for staff and parents, to look at what mood/behaviours have been displayed throughout the day."*

## Of the students who took part in the Riding the Wave programme...

**50%** decrease in 'very anxious' behaviour.

Almost **70%** decrease in 'anxious' behaviour.

Almost **70%** decrease in 'low mood'.

Over **80%** increase in 'calm/regulated' behaviour.

Over **70%** increase in 'highly receptive' behaviour.

Over **40%** increase in 'calm/highly receptive' behaviour.

(Comparing 3 months in the old school to 3 months in the new school building.)





BAND Trust Hydrotherapy Pool



Music Session



Soft Play Room

“ We have our own Seashell curriculum that we have developed, which helps the students to be as independent and best communicators as they can be to take them into the future. The new building provides so many new opportunities for this.

In the last Ofsted inspection, it was pointed out that we have no ceiling for the students and the staff dont put any boundaries on what the students can achieve here. That aspiration allows students to make such progress.

**Emma Houldcroft** Head Teacher, Royal School Manchester



Bertie Broome Swimming Pool

**Gaining recognition...**

The Moulding Foundation Building has been shortlisted in two categories at the **Education Estates Awards**: Project of the Year – Schools, and Project of the Year – Inclusive Design. Seashell has also been shortlisted for the Client of the Year award.

The Education Estates Awards are national awards recognising the best in design and construction of new education facilities across the country, including schools, colleges, and universities.



“It’s testament to the Trust’s dedication to

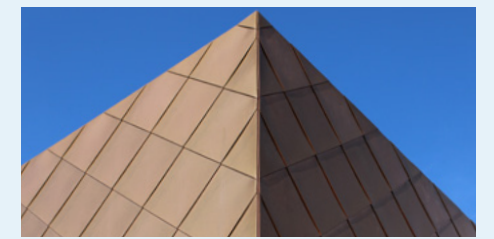
providing the best for your students and staff, and the value you’ve placed on stakeholder engagement, good design and maintaining quality through all the challenges faced.”

**Chris Pugh, Faulkner Browns** Architect



The iconic KME Tecu copper cladding installed by Longworth has also been

shortlisted in the **2023 FAÇADE Awards UK** for the Best New Build Project.



A truly **Outstanding** school

As well as Royal School Manchester continuing to be rated as an **Ofsted Outstanding** school, Seashell has also been accredited with **Genuine Partnerships Gold Award** for outstanding practice in co-production after a recent inspection. The report noted the collaborative work undertaken in the design of the building. The inspectors commented:

“Seashell is an excellent example of a truly inclusive and person-centred provision, where every young person is recognised as an individual with agency and autonomy.”





# Seashell extends its gratitude to our generous supporters

## The Moulding Foundation

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