

education

The government are about to embark on the biggest investment programme for Education in a Generation with a six fold increase in real terms since 1996/97. Capital Investment will increase from £683 million in 1996/97 to £8.2 billion by 2010/11.

The way in which revenue funding comes to schools for maintenance and repairs and the capital funding for improvements, alterations and extensions has gone through great changes. Schools and their Governing Bodies are being given more direct responsibility and control over money for premises, repairs and improvements.

The main school investment programmes are:

- Building Schools for the Future
- Primary Capital (currently in pilot stage)
- Targeted Capital System (bid based system)
- Devolved Formula Capital

Policy targets for educational changes include:

- Improving attainment levels.
- Improving staying on rates post-16.
- Personalised learning tailored to the needs of every child.
- Teacher recruitment and retention.

Investment in new buildings can enhance teaching and learning, enable new teaching methods and support ICT based learning, design quality and sustainable agendas will be key factors.

DLP Design Ltd has a long and established reputation for high quality design and bespoke building solutions. The Directors have particular expertise in the education field, having worked on projects from inception to completion on most aspects of educational buildings



from nursery schools to universities and Further Education colleges. Our services enables the provision of independent and informed opinion and advice.

We keep abreast of the latest developments in the National Curriculum funding and are aware of procurement processes, enabling us to advise on and understand a client's needs. We spend time with clients to understand and define their financial and material needs, our aim being to build up a relationship of trust, forming a creative and continuing dialogue.

As architects we can provide expertise in analysing client requirements and proposing alternative design solutions in response to complex briefs. This expertise is particularly relevant where planning or re-organisation of accommodation is involved which would include knowledge of the following:

- Modern and historical construction techniques.
- Education (school premises) regulations.
- Constructional standards and building regulations.
- School health and safety regulations.
- Access for disabled legislation and guidance.
- Building environmental standards.

On many projects the architect may be able to provide all the services required. However most larger and complex projects will require a design team with a wide range of skills including engineers and other specialist consultants. In this instance the architect would act as lead consultant.

DLP Design Ltd have been commissioned by a wide range of education clients from Independent and Voluntary Aided Schools to Local Authorities.

The Practice has received numerous Design Awards for its Educational Buildings. The most recent project to receive a Bedfordshire Association of Architects Award for the new Sports Hall and Performing Arts Facility at Lincroft Middle School in Oakley.

DLP Design Ltd can advise you on all aspects of your educational building needs to create a solution which will be to the ultimate benefit of the pupils and staff.