

# The Norton Knatchbull School

## Pitched Roof Refurbishment



### BACKGROUND

Following on from fire compliance works carried out at The Norton Knatchbull School, in Kent, Inspire Contract Services were once again selected to help address the long term, persistent roof leaks that the school building had been experiencing.

At the outset Inspire conducted a detailed survey of the existing pitched roof which featured man-made slate coverings with a central glazed lantern. These were shown to have both failed, resulting in costly leaks which were disrupting teaching, damaging resources and causing excessive energy bills.

A detailed technical specification was then prepared for the client including all associated costs, with the works being funded thanks a successful application for CIF funding.

The specified solution involved installing a new synthetic slate roof covering with a 40-year BBA certified service life, along with associated building remedial works.

Exceptional project management, regular communication with the client and responsible working practices were essential at all times in order to ensure site safety and the overall efficiency of the challenging programme.

CLIENT	The Norton Knatchbull School
SECTOR	Education
LOCATION	Ashford, Kent
SOLUTION PROVIDED	Synthetic Slate Roof Covering with Associated Improvement Works

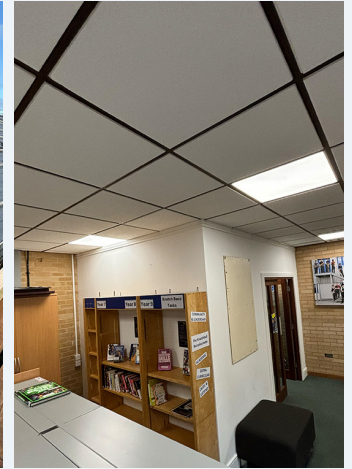


## THE WORKS

INSPIRE

The works were completed over the summer holidays and during term time, and consisted of:

- Installation of new synthetic slate roof covering with BBA certification
- Provision of new brackets for mounting of PV panels
- Fire safety improvements to supporting steel frame members whilst structure exposed
- Improvements to roof access to enable CDM compliant maintenance going forwards
- Simplification of existing roof details with roof penetrations omitted to minimise risk of future failure
- Replacement of existing internal suspended ceilings.



## THE RESULT

In addition to the new synthetic slate roof covering, new brackets were provided for the existing photovoltaic energy panels. This ensured lifetime weathering, a single point of responsibility, and secure fixing of the PV panels upon completion of the pitched roofing works.

Elsewhere the central lantern has been replaced with composite metal sheets to provide a superior u-value and lower ongoing heating costs for the school. Natural light transmission has been retained via glazed openers, also facilitating natural ventilation. In addition, a number of access and fire safety improvements have been made, with suspended internal ceilings also being replaced concurrently with the roofing works.

To minimise any inconvenience to the school a meticulous and detailed project delivery programme was formulated, whereby heavy and disruptive construction tasks were prioritised over the summer holidays. Concluding tasks were then completed on a sequential phased basis, which enabled the building to remain in use without disturbance to teaching.

In summary, this has been an excellent project, resulting in a leak-free, energy-efficient roof for the school and a far better teaching environment for all concerned. Close communication and liaison with the client helped ensure a first class result with minimal disruption to the school.

