



**PROJECT** CLASSBASE EXTENSIONS AT GREAT BRADFORDS  
INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS  
**CLIENT** ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL  
**VALUE** £1.45M  
**CONSULTANT** CASTONS

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This project was part of an extension/rationalisation scheme to enable both schools in Braintree to admit more children and meet future needs in the area. Work involved replacing existing temporary classrooms at both schools with more spacious permanent classrooms, storage and toilet facilities and creating a new play area at the infants school. The scheme comprised single storey linear extensions to both schools, constructed in materials that match the existing buildings with facing brick walls and low-pitched sheet metal clad roofs.

Phasing of the works was particularly important since both schools remained in occupation throughout the works, which were therefore restricted. The schools were constructed simultaneously to minimise disruption on site and to bring

the facilities into use at the earliest possible opportunity. As part of the consequential improvements the existing schools were fitted with energy meters and the light fittings were replaced with a passive infrared switching system to support the schools' drive to increase energy efficiency.

Lakehouse's Site Manager and Contracts Manager were invited to judge competitions, including the choice of design for the infants school logo. During the project Alex Carlisle, a son of one of the school's staff, was offered a position as labourer with Lakehouse. Alex was subsequently provided with training and has since continued his employment with Lakehouse as a fork lift driver.