

# Bedford Schools



## 1. Asset information

The Bedford Schools project is a 29-year scheme to design, build, finance and maintain of two academies, the Samuel Whitbread Academy and the Harlington Upper School in Central Bedfordshire.

The schools represent well modernised operational buildings. The Samuel Whitbread Academy serves the rural communities around the small market town of Shefford in Central Bedfordshire and the Harlington Upper School is a rural, coeducational upper school and sixth form in the town of Harlington, Bedfordshire. The schools were constructed on a mixture of new and existing sites in their respective locations.

The facilities became operational in 2006, and the concession runs until 2035.



Education

## 2. Impact

Samuel Whitbread Academy provides c.1,800 pupils with access to secondary education and Harlington Upper School provides c. 1,400 pupils with access to secondary education, both in an effective learning environment.



## 3. Awards and certifications

- Samuel Whitbread Academy has recently won the schools national vase at Twickenham. Both its under 18 and under 15 division went to Twickenham after both teams winning in the semi-finals at Allianz Park (Saracens' home ground)
- Samuel Whitbread Academy was also recently crowned School of the Year at the National Rugby Awards.

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## 4. Environment

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### GHG emissions

The project has an active energy reduction program in place. It minimises carbon use through improvement in energy efficiency strategies and low carbon on-site generation.

The cumulative energy consumption in the last reporting period continued to be below threshold.

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### Climate risk

The project was screened to evaluate the potential physical impacts from climate change based on 'Paris-aligned' (RCP2.6 ~+1°C) and 'High emissions' (RCP8.5 ~+3.7°C) scenarios across three time periods (2020, 2050 and 2100). The project maintains a Low physical climate risk score under both scenarios.

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### Waste & Water

The project operates a policy to minimise waste sent to landfill and ensure safe and proper disposal of any hazardous material. It adopts project-wide recycling initiatives and ensures safe, secure and hygienic storage of waste, chemicals and potential pollutants.

Additionally, the Portfolio Company and its subcontractors have an active water usage reduction programme in place.

The management services provider continues to monitor waste and water consumption and is actively exploring opportunities to reduce them wherever possible.

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### Biodiversity

The asset is built in compliance with local environmental regulations. During the concession period, the Portfolio Company focuses on promoting restoration efforts to improve degraded or removed ecosystems that act as natural carbon sinks and can improve resilience to climate-related damages, such as:

- habitats for indigenous species (i.e., bat boxes, insect hotels, beehives, wild bee hotels, fish ladders)
- expansion of green spaces in urban areas (i.e., planting indigenous tree species, shrubs and flower meadows).

Additionally, the Portfolio Company has a Biodiversity policy in place.

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## 5. Social

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### Health & Safety

Health and safety is on the agenda each board meeting. Our asset managers work actively with the Portfolio Company or its management service providers, to promote a strong health and safety culture, facilitate the sharing of best practices.

We endorse a zero-tolerance approach to occupational health and safety incidents. Additionally, the Portfolio Company has a Health & Safety policy in place and regularly conducts a fire or health and safety audit.

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### Diversity

Not applicable as the Portfolio Company does not employ any staff.

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### Impact for local communities

Both, Samuel Whitbread Academy and Harlington Upper School aim to improve access to and quality of education for young people and provide education to over 3,000 pupils in the Bedfordshire community, fostering critical thinking, personal growth, and skill development.

This empowers pupils to pursue careers and become informed, engaged citizens, ultimately benefiting both the local and broader UK communities.

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## 6. Governance

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### Delegation & oversight

The Portfolio Company directors review on a quarterly basis comprehensive board report, including both general project management and financial management. The project has a rigorous governance structure in place with quarterly board meetings, ad-hoc meetings when required and an authority delegation matrix to the management services provider.

The Portfolio Company has robust ESG policies and procedures in place and clear board-level responsibility to monitor their application. The ESG standard policies include:

- Biodiversity policy
- Code of Conduct, including anti-bribery, anti-corruption and non-discrimination
- Conflict of interest
- Cyber-security
- Diversity
- ESG
- Health and safety (workplace accident prevention)
- Anti-slavery & Human Trafficking policy (Modern Day Slavery)
- Rapid escalation
- Responsible contractor
- Tax
- Whistleblowing

The Portfolio Company holds frequent meetings with the public sector client to promote collaboration, coordination and integration of operations.

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### Reporting

The Portfolio Company uses a quarterly board pack, reporting to the board of directors on the operational and financial performance of the project and compliance with its obligations and regulation/legislation, including the policies.

Additionally, the Portfolio Company reports annually into BBGI's ESG KPI survey, which composed of 100+ data points, covering all aspects of ESG oversight.

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### Cyber security

Portfolio Company and its subcontractors continuously monitor that the cyber security policy is in place and perform information risk analysis and develops mitigating measures. They have a robust and comprehensive IT backup system in place. Additionally, the Portfolio Company has a Cyber security policy in place.

# Contact

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