

OVER 9,000 PUPILS TO BENEFIT FROM NEW AND IMPROVED SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Over 9,000 pupils in 15 schools will benefit from new and renovated school buildings as the Department for Education announced the first two successful bidders for the £2.4bn Priority School Building Programme.

Sir Robert McAlpine Ltd has been successful in its bid for a contract for the first group of schools in the North East, Yorkshire and Humberside and Wates Construction Ltd has successfully bid for a contract in Coventry.

The North East contract is worth approximately £64m and it means that nine schools (four primary, three secondary and two special) across Durham, Gateshead, Sheffield, Stockton on Tees, Sunderland and East Riding serving 5,495 pupils will be completely rebuilt or refurbished.

The schools are:

Durham

- Durham Trinity School and Sports College
- West Cornforth Primary School
- King James I Academy

Gateshead

- Hill Top Specialist Arts College

Sheffield

- Fox Hill Primary School
- Prince Edward Primary School

Stockton-On-Tees

- Ian Ramsey Church of England School

Sunderland

- Usworth Grange Primary School

East Riding, Yorkshire

- Goole High School 'An Academy of Excellence'

Wates Construction Ltd has been successful in its bid for the £36m contract in Coventry. This means that more than 3,675 pupils (including nursery places) in four primaries, one secondary, and one special school will be taught in new buildings. This contract is the first of two batches planned for the Midlands.

The schools, all in Coventry, are:

- Whitmore Park Primary
- St Thomas More Catholic Primary
- Wyken Croft Primary

- Richard Lee Primary
- Ernesford Grange Community
- Alice Stevens Special School.

Schools Minister David Laws said: “We are delighted to confirm the first two contractors who will work with us on our £2.4bn Priority School Building Programme. This programme will provide new or refurbished school buildings for the children being educated in those schools that are in the very worst condition.”

Boyd McFee, Director from Sir Robert McAlpine Ltd said:

“Sir Robert McAlpine is delighted to have been appointed to deliver the first batch of schools in the North East, Yorkshire and Humberside under the Priority School Building Programme.

“We have been working with a strong team of designers and supply chain partners for more than a year to develop our approach in readiness for the PSBP and look forward to partnering with the Education Funding Agency in the delivery of these important schools.”

Steve Beechey, Group Investment Director and Head of Education for Wates, commented:

“Today’s announcement is fantastic news for Wates, as this a great opportunity for us to demonstrate our expertise in the construction of next generation school buildings. We look forward to acting as a contractor for the development of these school buildings and delivering cost effective school solutions for the nation’s schoolchildren.”

The selected contractors will now work with the EFA and the schools to develop detailed designs and submit planning proposals for each scheme before building work begins in the spring.

Good progress is being made on the remaining six capital funded batches. The contractors on the EFA Contractors’ Framework will be invited to tender for these batches in January and February. The 261 schools to be re built or renovated under the Priority Schools Building Programme were announced in May 2012 and are available from [here](#)

Notes to editors

Since 2010 this Government has allocated £2.7 billion to local authorities to support the provision of new school places and £2.8 billion for the maintenance of the school estate to meet the needs of maintained schools and academies. Over the spending review period, the total capital made available for investment in schools in England will be about £18 billion.

In order to ascertain the renovation needs of the schools estate in England, the Department has been conducting a national programme of surveys, which should be available by Autumn 2013. Information on the condition of all schools was last collated centrally in 2005.

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