

# ST GEORGES SCHOOL



**Appointed by Worcestershire County Council, Howl Associates were tasked with designing a replacement primary school on the existing St George's School site. As a key part of learning at a young age, it is important to be engaged with the real world and learning about nature within the natural environment.**

This connection with outside learning and bringing nature into the classroom was at the heart of the design brief for Howl Associates. As a result, their design vision placed strong emphasis on communal spaces, rich in natural light and closely linked to the surrounding forest schools. Rooflights were integral to this vision.

The design included a focal courtyard area as a central space for parents, children and teachers to engage with each other during collection times, integrating parents into the school community. During the school day the courtyard becomes a secure space for students to learn and develop. In a site where space was tight, this courtyard provides a valuable extension to the outside, to natural light, and serves to connect the whole school community.

The Rooflight Co were approached by Howl Architects during RIBA Stage three of the project with a detailed roof plan. Our Bespoke Design team worked closely with the architects to create a tailored solution that accommodated both the specific sizing and placement requirements. With vertical glazing a dominant feature in the corridor also, the final effect of the bespoke Conservation Plateau Rooflights is one of light, space and a connection to the world outside.

One of the core themes of this project was to create a bright and welcoming space where the young pupils can thrive. An abundance of natural light was integral to creating that positive learning environment.

The inclusion of our rooflights ensures classrooms and communal areas benefit from as much natural daylight as possible. The design of our bespoke rooflights features a virtually frameless appearance, so when a child looks up it is as if nothing separates them from the sky.

The rooflight design includes a show-stopping bank of rooflights that run the length of a whole corridor with glazing that extends to virtually the full width. To achieve this impressive run of rooflights, our design team created a bespoke design based on our Conservation Plateau Rooflight. The bespoke rooflights consisted of four individual glazing frames on two steel base structures, utilising the company's unique linking design, achieving both a technically feasible solution and minimising the support frame dimensions between each viewable pane. This system offers optimal viewable areas providing clearer lines of sight and maximising incoming light. A total of seven sets of fixed closed units utilised our recommended glazing specification for the entire flat roof collection of 6.4mm laminated inner pane, a recognised standard by the Rooflight Association for the protection of the public below.

The Rooflight Co co-ordinated with the design and construction teams throughout to create the site-specific technical drawings to ensure the installation went smoothly. Careful consideration needed to be given to the junctions between the rooflights, box guttering and abutting wall.

The unique design vision and execution of this project was highlighted when it won a RIBA West Midlands award in 2013.

Hand-assembled in our manufacturing studio in the Cotswolds, the bespoke rooflights for this project were constructed from high quality materials that fulfil both the aesthetic brief and the requirements for thermal performance. Moreover, the natural light and connection to nature they provide, helps fulfil the vision of creating a space with potential that encourages learning and curiosity and supports imagination.



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**“The rooflights flood the space with natural light and create a strong visual rhythm that leads the eye through to the contemporary external cloister beyond. We have used the Plateau Rooflight in this way on a number of our projects as its design allows a simple frameless appearance to be achieved internally”**  
Phil Howl, Howl Associates

**Architect:**

[Howl Associates](#)

**Contractor:**

[Thomas Vale Construction](#)

**Roofers:**

[Apex Roofing and Cladding](#)

**Awards:**

RIBA West Midlands Award 2013

**Contact us for more information:**

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COTSWOLDS