

St. Mary's School **The One Stop Shop Case Study**

How Blake's One Stop Shop saved time, money and frustration for St Mary's Prittlewell C Of E Primary School



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Backstory

In 2015, St Mary's School in Prittlewell was looking for a Building Contractor to take on a much-needed refurbishment project.

The school wanted a safer and more inspiring place for students to thrive in.

After contacting Blake Contractors, the school was delighted to find out we could take the fire & security headache off their plate too!

Blake's One Stop Shop manages everything *...so you don't have to!*

The Blake Group comprises Blake Contractors (for building & electrical work) and Blake Fire & Security Systems.

Between the two departments, we have an expert for each of the following areas in one, stress-free package:

- Security systems
- Fire safety systems and equipment
- Construction and renovation work
- Electrical and plumbing work
- Decorating

Blake's managed the entire project; all the suppliers, their lead times and different points of contact. It was a project management migraine that St. Mary's staff were able to avoid!

This case study outlines the project execution and how each part of the project addressed and solved the School's safeguarding concerns. In some cases, specialist third parties were brought in to assist Blake's with the project.

Access Control

St Mary's School had several security issues that our Access Control expert, Mat Finch, was able to solve.

Car Park Barriers

The school experienced problems with parents using the small staff car park to drop off and pick up their children. Because these spaces were reserved for staff only, automatic barriers were installed at the entrance.

Authorised personnel with a corresponding fob for the entry system were granted access to the car park, while unwanted vehicles were kept out!

Perimeter Fencing & Gates

Your perimeter fencing and gates are the first line of defence and the first thing a visitor sees before entering the school grounds. It speaks volumes about your school's attitude towards security and the safety of children, staff and visitors.

Blake's used a specialist subcontractor to install the school's fencing and gates to industry standards. All communications were handled by Blake's, leaving the busy school staff to do what they do best...

Paxton Access Control System

The pedestrian gates, car park barrier and main entrance were fitted with a Paxton access control system which allowed the school to restrict and control internal and external access.

The entry systems were linked to special handsets in the reception area, classrooms and kitchen so visitors could request access from multiple members of staff as the reception is not manned.



Intruder Alarm + CCTV

In addition to the external security issues, the school had no CCTV or intruder protection leaving the building vulnerable to burglars and vandals.

Hikvision HD IP CCTV System

As an NSI Gold certified supplier, we are obliged to supply the best quality and most reliable products - which is why we chose to safeguard the school with Hikvision cameras. We've been working with Hikvision products for years because they are high quality and reliable - making the CCTV system a worthwhile investment for the school.



We love Hikvision so much, we became a Silver *Value Added Solution Partner*!

Intruder Alarm

St Mary's School is full of expensive equipment, making it the perfect target for burglars. Without an alarm system in place, the school was not properly protected after hours - even with caretakers and late workers onsite!

Ash Jones, our intruder alarms expert, designed and wired the system with sensors covering all entry points for maximum protection.



"Parents love the fact that our school is so safe. You can't get in or out without a fob so they know their children are in safe hands. It's a real selling point for our school."

Natalie Cashell, Deputy Headteacher

Fire Protection

Unlike security systems that are seen as an extra precaution to ensure the safety of pupils, Fire Safety Systems **MUST** be in place and compliant with legislation

The law states that it is the Responsible Person's duty to evaluate fire risks and take appropriate action to reduce or eliminate them. That involves hiring a competent third party to design, install, test and maintain your fire alarm and equipment.

The less expensive quote can seem appealing, but cheaper installers are often unaccredited - meaning a higher authority is not in place to prove competency. How can you be 100% sure that the systems they install meet British standards and work when you need them most? Not only does this leave the pupils and staff in danger if the worst should happen, it leaves you **vulnerable to unlimited fines or imprisonment** as the Responsible Person!

Fire Safety Systems & Equipment

St. Mary's were satisfied that the duty of care had been fulfilled because our NSI Gold Fire certified expert, Rory Foster, designed and installed all systems and equipment, including:

- Fire alarm system
- Fire extinguishers
- Emergency lighting & signage
- Fire rated doors & shutters
- Fire notices

We're NSI Gold & NSI Gold Fire certified

NSI Gold is the highest regarded certification by Police, the Fire Brigade and insurance companies.

NSI Gold certified suppliers are checked regularly to ensure they supply, install and maintain fire safety equipment to British legislation.

As the Responsible Person, hiring a certified third party (like Blake's) means competence is assured and you won't have to worry about an unwise choice of supplier coming back to haunt you!

Ian Blake, MD at Blake Fire & Security Systems



Construction

Blake Contractors' Building department managed the entire refurbishment project, from the jobs completed in-house (shown below), to the new soft-play playground that was laid by a specialist third party.

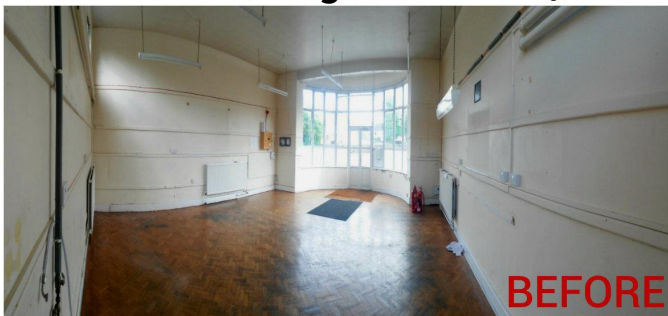
With all the appropriate certifications in place like CHAS, ConstructionLine and ROSPA, our *One Stop Shop* was the convenient and trustworthy choice for St. Mary's.

The school was unrecognisable after the renovation work - see a few examples below...

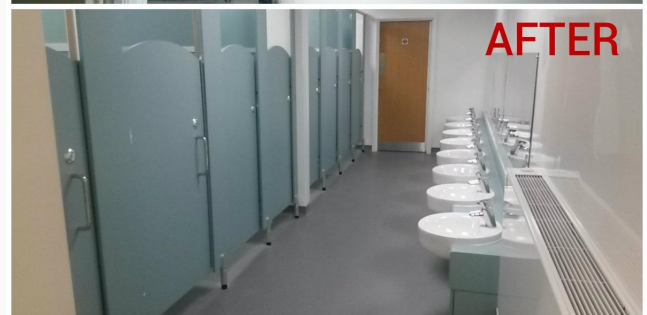
Disabled toilets before / after (panoramic view)



New fire-rated swing doors before / after



Toilet cubicles before/after



Accreditations Prevent Disaster

CHAS Approved

Our CHAS accreditation means that Blake's have health and safety processes in place and meet the legal health and safety requirements.



CONTRACTORS HEALTH & SAFETY ASSESSMENT SCHEME

Accredited Contractor

www.chas.gov.uk

For the school it meant:

- Compliance with their duty of care to ensure the workforce adhere to sufficient health and safety processes.
- The Responsible Person can prove the health and safety competence was checked.

"You will need to satisfy yourself that the contractor you choose can do the job safely and without risks to health." - Pg 2, [HSE guidance on Using Contractors](#)

NSI GOLD / GOLD FIRE

Our NSI Gold accreditations mean we are proficient in the installation of security and fire systems and have excellent quality management processes.

For the school it meant:

- The Responsible Person had done everything in their power to ensure children and visitors are safeguarded properly in regards to the security and fire systems



DBS Checked

In addition to our industry-related accreditations, we also ensured all of our on-site employees were DBS checked.

The [Keeping Children Safe in Education Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges](#) states that ***"Under no circumstances should a contractor in respect of whom no checks have been obtained be allowed to work unsupervised"***.

The School Says

How would you describe your experience with Blake's One Stop Shop?

Excellent! Blake's listened to everything we wanted and managed the entire project. No problem was too big or small. They listened to everything we said and continually made tweaks to ensure the finished project was perfect.

*Blake's always kept us up to speed with the progress and **the project was completed 4 weeks before the scheduled deadline!***

How did you find Blake's staff?

*The staff from both departments were personable and easy to get on with. Anything we asked for was done in a timely fashion and **they always had time for us.***

Would you recommend Blake's One Stop Shop to other schools & businesses?

Definitely! In fact, our other school site has since been in contact with Blake's regarding refurbishment projects.

How has the refurbishment impacted your school?

We get great feedback from parents. The high security standards are a real selling point - they love the fact that the school is so safe.

Natalie Cashell, Deputy Headteacher



Keeping Your School Safe

Blake's *One Stop Shop* has worked for over 200 schools, offering protection to thousands of staff and pupils.

These days, school security is so much more than just a health and safety obligation, it is even an important part of your Ofsted inspection. **Use Blake Fire & Security Systems to fully comply with legislation and keep pupils, staff and visitors safe.**



CLICK THE BUTTON
BELOW TO REQUEST A
FREE SECURITY SURVEY

BOOK MY SITE SURVEY

