KSystems

Case Study:
Accrington Academy

Innovation Fuelled

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Client	United Learning
Architect	EDGE Consulting
Contractor	Profac Ltd
Installer	Profac Ltd
Project	Refurb
System	K Systems Direct Fix M (Mineral Wool), Silicone TC 15 Render

Background

K Systems, working in partnership with **approved installer Profac,** successfully delivered a comprehensive remediation project at Accrington Academy, upgrading the existing external wall insulation (EWI) system to **enhance fire safety, durability and visual appeal.**

The project involved the removal of the original Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) insulation and its replacement with a non-combustible mineral wool system, finished with a high-performance render system. This upgrade was designed to meet current and future fire safety requirements while significantly improving the building's aesthetic and thermal performance. Although the existing EPS façade was compliant at the time of installation, evolving regulations prompted a proactive approach to **future-proof** the building.

The Academy remained fully operational throughout the works, requiring **detailed planning, clear communication and close collaboration** to ensure the safety of pupils, staff and contractors while minimising disruption.

The successful completion of the Accrington Academy project demonstrates K Systems' commitment to delivering **high-performing EWI solutions,** with a strong focus on **fire safety, thermal comfort and long-lasting visual quality.**

Low-rise Educational

Refurb

2 Storeys

Our Service

One of the most significant challenges was delivering the remediation in a live educational environment. Profac worked in close collaboration with the Academy to **ensure the safety of students and staff at every stage.** Drilling and fixing activities were carefully restricted to specific times outside of classroom hours, with a large portion of the works undertaken during weekends and pre-agreed times aligned with the school timetable to minimise disruption.

The project also required installation onto an existing substrate of sheathing board fixed to a steel frame. Retaining this substrate delivered significant cost savings for the Academy and allowed the available budget to be maximised without compromising performance. K Systems conducted **detailed pullout tests** and assessed the integrity of the sheathing board to ensure the correct fixing solution would provide **long term durability.**

The **bespoke soffit detailing,** incorporating a combination of adhesive and mechanical fixings, showcased K Systems' commitment to **structural integrity** and **long-term system performance.** Careful attention was given to the finishing around lighting and the supporting struts. The result was a clean, professional finish that met both **technical and aesthetic requirements.**

Throughout the installation, K Systems' technical team provided **tailored, project-specific support,** working closely with Profac to ensure the system was installed to the highest standards and delivered a seamless, high-quality outcome.

Andrew Walton, Facilities Manager, Accrington Academy

"Delivery of the project required teams to work seamlessly together and have absolute trust in the other's skill, vision, and judgement. That is what we had with K Systems and Profac on the Accrington Academy project - particularly the installation of the external wall insulation system.

The use of non-combustible mineral wool insulation provides an upgrade to current building regulations. The new silicone render provided a fresh finish to the entrance and front of the academy. Care and attention were allowed for the educational environment and a successful remediation installation was achieved."

Technical Project Details

K Systems Direct Fix M **(KIWA certified)** was specified for the Accrington Academy project. The system featured **100mm of A1 non-combustible mineral wool insulation** and a **Silicone TC 15 Thin Coat Render finish.** This specification was selected to achieve the project's key objectives:

- **Fire Safety:** The new system upgraded the façade's fire classification from B-s1,d0 to A2-s1,d0, delivering a significant improvement in fire performance and aligning the building with current and future regulatory expectations.
- **Weather Resistance and Flexibility:** The Silicone TC 15 Render provides excellent UV stability, robust weathering protection and flexible performance, helping to maintain the integrity and appearance of the façade over time.
- **Aesthetic Excellence:** The crisp, clean finish of the silicone render, combined with refined detailing at the soffits, window reveals, and parapet junctions has delivered a visually striking and modern façade. Careful attention to detailing around façade lighting, soffit struts, sills and glazing louvre fins ensured a seamless, high-quality appearance throughout.

Compriband tape and silicone sealant (primary and secondary sealants) were used to create a robust connection between the EWI and existing building elements, such as brickwork and roof parapets. This approach prevents moisture ingress and provides effective resistance to wind-driven rain, safeguarding the longevity of the façade.

The completed installation has transformed the visual identity of Accrington Academy, particularly its front elevation, which now presents a **clean, modern, and professional appearance** as visitors approach the main entrance. The combination of silicone render, glazing, louvres, and brickwork creates **a harmonious blend of materials** and a striking architectural impression.
More importantly, the new system enhances the Academy's compliance with modern fire safety regulations while improving the building's thermal performance - ensuring a safe, warm, and visually engaging learning environment for years to come.

This project exemplifies why K Systems is a leading manufacturer in the EWI sector. It demonstrates the company's regulatory expertise through the proactive upgrading of systems in line with the most stringent fire safety standards, alongside its role as a trusted technical advisor, carrying out full pull-out testing and designing bespoke fixing solutions to suit complex substrates.

The project also reflects K Systems' design-led approach, delivering visually impactful façades without compromising performance, and its collaborative method of working, ensuring installation was carefully planned around the requirements of a live, sensitive educational environment.