

PARKVIEW DUNDEE

USE AND ADAPTION OF LISTED SCHOOLS



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Parkview School in Dundee

A distinctive old school building has been brought back to life as part of a new private residential development.

Parkview School, in the west end of Dundee, was designed in 1894 by the architects James Maclaren & Sons in a Jacobean architectural style. It is a two-storey stone building with a symmetrical front, and square plan, built around a courtyard.

The building opened as Balgay Industrial School for Girls in 1896, offering accommodation for up to 80 girls. New buildings were added in the 1970s when it became the Duncan House School – a school providing residential care for boys with behavioural problems.

The Duncan House School closed in 2009 and, unfortunately, there was no plan in place for its reuse. It was left standing empty, and without regular maintenance it began to deteriorate. Before long, it became a target for vandalism, and lead was stolen from its roof.

The building was acquired in 2012 by Whiteburn, who have undertaken similar conversion and new build schemes throughout Scotland. The company had its roots in Dundee and saw the opportunity to revitalise the listed building as part of a wider development.



Top view of Parkview school with redeveloped courtyard and mews properties.
© Whiteburn

Working in collaboration with Page \ Park architects, they set out to convert the old school into flats, funding the conversion costs by an enabling development of new housing in the grounds.

The listed school was central to the overall development, with a key aim to bring it back into use and repair it sensitively. The exterior is particularly significant and its stone facades were carefully repaired.



Above:
View of front of the school facing south.
Below: Back of the school facing north © Whiteburn



Above: Before view of school building and extension
© Whiteburn

Below: View of the building extension after development
© Andrew Lee

Internally, in common with many schools, it was more functional by nature, but the proposals allowed interesting internal features to be retained, including the original stairs. A more interventionist approach was taken in the less significant one-storey ancillary buildings to the rear.

The 1970s school buildings to the east of the school were demolished and replaced with 12 new build flats and 3 contemporary mews homes.

These new buildings are also arranged around a courtyard, echoing the layout of the historic buildings.

Their design also reflects the architectural characteristics of the original school building, with a stepped form and a similar colour scheme and gable design.

This approach carefully brings together the different parts of the site and minimises the overall impact on the original building.

Parkview is an example of a private commercial residential development. The project's sympathetic approach allowed the original character and use of the school to be successfully retained, whilst, at the same time, providing characterful new homes.



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Historic Environment Scotland - SC045925
Registered Address: Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh EH9 1SH
0131 668 8600
historicenvironment.scot

View of the redeveloped courtyard and mews properties © Andrew Lee

