

St Bedes College, Christchurch

St Bedes College Board of Proprietors

Sector
Education

Service
Main contractor:
Gymnasium
extension and
strengthening and
new classroom build

Timeframe
18 months

Consultants
Architect: Wilkie and Bruce/Herriot Melhuish O'Neill
Structural Engineer: Lewis Bradford
Geotechnical Engineer: Tonkin Taylor
Civil, Mechanical/Electrical/Hydraulic
Engineer/Fire Engineer: Powell Fenwick

A complex programme in a live school environment

Scope

Farrell Construction was appointed as main contractor for a \$10 million, 18-month project at St Bede's College. The works comprised a gymnasium extension and seismic strengthening, alongside the construction of the new Grimes classroom building.

Process

The project was delivered through one of the wettest winters on record, with the gym's 15-metre screw pile foundations sitting below the water table. Managing works in these conditions required close collaboration with the structural engineer to maintain stability and keep the programme on track. At the same time, Farrell carried out seismic strengthening at heights of over nine metres, all while the gym remained in daily use. Operating safely within a live school environment demanded fastidious planning, constant communication, and disciplined risk management to protect both users and the project timeline.

Solution

We deployed our own carpentry team across all trades to ensure quality and programme delivery. Close collaboration with consultants and a disciplined approach to safety enabled successful delivery. The result is a modern, resilient facility that supports the College's educational needs, while standing as a testament to Farrell's capability in live environments.

