

# Watch this place° Michael Tippett School in London

Michael Tippett School is a special educational needs secondary school in south London. The school has 80 places for children with a range of learning difficulties. The building helps to prepare pupils for the challenges of adult life in a safe environment



The architect worked closely with the school throughout the process and visited the old school many times to see how it was used on a day-to-day basis.

*Watch this place* showcases examples of contemporary architecture and place making and asks how they work. It is published by CABE as a poster with its education magazine 360°. For further information please visit [www.cabe.org.uk](http://www.cabe.org.uk) or email [education@cabe.org.uk](mailto:education@cabe.org.uk)



Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment

Outdoor play is particularly important to the students, so a direct link is made between the school grounds and the community green space next door.

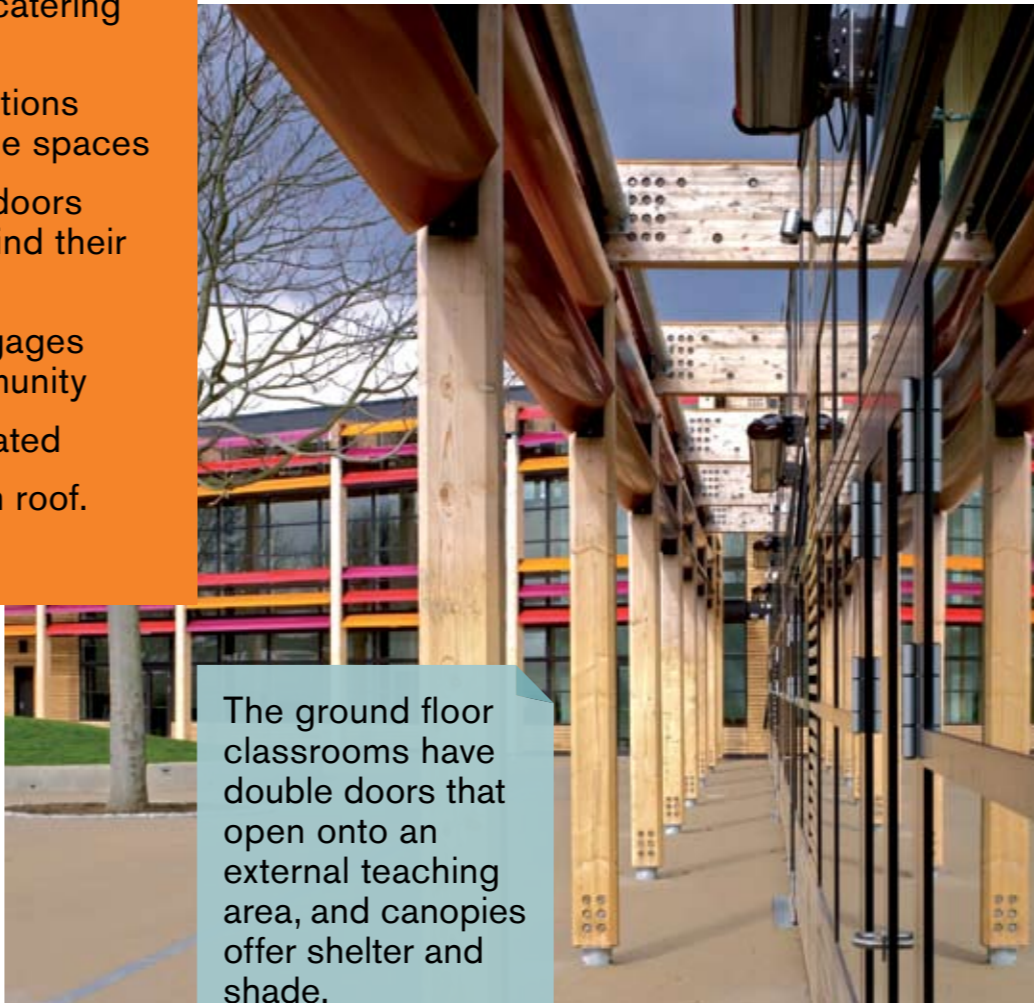


## What's special about this school?

- the design reflects a philosophy of catering for all
- moveable partitions allow for flexible spaces
- colour coded doors help users to find their way round
- the design engages the local community
- naturally ventilated
- a green sedum roof.



The entrance lobby is double height and allows for views across the play space and through to a public park at the rear.

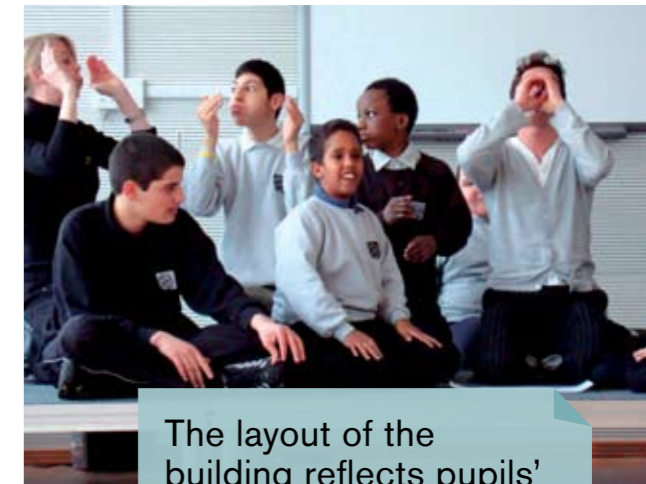


The ground floor classrooms have double doors that open onto an external teaching area, and canopies offer shelter and shade.

To help widen the students' experiences the school programmes a diverse range of events and activities. There are hydrotherapy facilities, a sensory room, a learning garden and a community hall.



The school makes a positive visual impact on the local area – a zigzag plan, bold colours on the metal louvres and an external timber frame.



The layout of the building reflects pupils' progression through the school – the sixth form common room is in the far corner of the top floor.