

## Facilities case study

**Project:** Lightning School of Gymnastics  
**Type:** School conversion  
**Cost:** £26,500



Lightning School of Gymnastics first opened in 2012 and ran their classes in a number of primary schools and leisure centres. As they became more popular and their waiting list grew, they sought to find their own venue in order to provide more opportunities to more people, as well as provide more training time to their squad gymnasts.

### Project overview

The club had considered an industrial unit conversion but decided it was not feasible or sustainable at the moment, due to results from business planning and consultation and also the difficulty in gaining agreement for change of use through landlords. The head coach was delivering gymnastics in Walthamstow Hall School and from initial talks about developing a dedicated gymnastics space the club found a home.

### The Project

Consent was given by the school to convert a sports hall and swimming pool into a dedicated gymnastics space. Although this would limit access to the club to just evenings and weekends it would allow the club to develop. As no change of use was needed the conversion could be completed quickly. An agreement took place between the club and the school which included curriculum delivery by the clubs coaches. The installation of a sprung floor saw the works complete in September 2016.

## Impact

- Growth from 260 members to 450 participating per week within the first six months. New classes added and all participants now training on same site.
- Previous sites can be developed into Satellite Centres.
- Addition of two Level 1 and one Level 2 coaches and the attendance of a disability add on module.
- Two volunteers recruited and retained through volunteer scheme.
- Opportunities to perform at GymFusion and International Displays. Competition pathway further enhanced.

## Project cost

The project was financed by the club:

**Roll out mats, bars and beam** - £6,500

**Safety mats** - £3,000

**Moving & setting up costs** - £500

**Platform vault & springboards** - £2,000

**Sprung floor and tumble track** - £12,500

## Running costs

Expenditure	£/month
Rent - School	£1,600
Staffing	£6,000

The school covers the insurance costs for the building and equipment.

## The future

The club is looking to introduce new disciplines into their programme in order to provide more opportunities for more people. They are also continuing to build upon their workforce through volunteers and older gymnasts. In time, they are considering a second dedicated site to continue to cater for demand and increased participation levels.



## Top tips

- Build upon the relationships that you may already have in place.
- Have a detailed business plan that is clear for stakeholders to understand.
- Have a clear focus to your project with planned aims suitable to the ethos and objectives of your club.
- Prepare the club and its sessions for a move by streamlining the organisation and process that helps the day to day running.

**Do you require support with a facility project?**

Contact us at: [participation@british-gymnastics.org](mailto:participation@british-gymnastics.org)