

Pre-School Building, Bedfordshire

Project Value: £280,000

Client: Fairfield Park Lower School, Stotfold, Beds

Problem:

Fairfield Park Lower School was built in 2007 to serve a new housing development in the grounds of a former Grade 1 listed hospital building. A pre-school already operated from a spare classroom, but increasing pupil numbers meant that additional accommodation was essential. Spare space was available in the school grounds, but stringent planning guidelines as specified in the Fairfield Park Urban Development Strategy presented a number of challenges. Very careful consideration had to be given to the external design and specification of the building, whilst allowing for the creation of an exciting and child-friendly pre-school facility.

Solution:

It was clear during the feasibility process that the existing school accommodation could not be adapted or extended to provide a large enough setting for a pre-school. So PCMS considered a number of potential locations for a free-standing building within the school grounds. Once an exact site had been identified, visualisations were provided to enable the client and planners to make a decision about the roof and sky line, as one of the Victorian hospital turrets was within view. PCMS worked closely with school staff, the childcare provider management team and local planners to ensure that everyone was on board with the design.

Result:

The new building sits harmoniously alongside the architecture of the school next door, and Fairfield Park development as a whole. The pre-school is a striking and attractive addition to the school grounds. Both children and staff are now happily making full use of their purpose built facility. There are a number of themed play spaces: reception, kitchen/utility and living room areas, designed to create a welcoming and safe 'home from home' for pre-schoolers.



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