



Pre-School Building, Bedfordshire

Client: Clapham Pre-School, Bedfordshire

Project value: £230,000

Problem:

As a well-attended pre-school in an ideal location on the edge of the village playing field, Clapham Pre-School really felt that their building was letting them down, even though they did not want to move. The pre-school had operated from a dilapidated modular unit for many years, and the facilities both outside and in were rapidly deteriorating. Space was available adjacent to the unit, but various ownership and other practical issues had to be overcome before the pre-school could get the go ahead and seek the necessary planning and building consents.

Solution:

When the Chair of the pre-school asked PCMS Design for advice, we carried out number of preliminary investigations which found that it was possible to construct a new permanent-build pre-school on a piece of adjacent land. Fortunately, this could be carried out whilst the pre-school continued to operate from the modular unit, minimising disruption for the children and staff. There were a few challenges to overcome on the mixed community use site, including planning in the service runs. These were resolved and everyone was pleased to be given the go-ahead for the new purpose built pre-school.

Result:

We designed a striking single-storey building, with white rendered walls and an integral canopy with powder coated steel supports, and a zinc-covered sloping roof. The light and airy inside spaces are painted in bright modern colours, and the immediate grounds have been turfed to create a practical and pleasant outside area for the children and staff. With the old modular unit now gone, the pre-school are very happy to have such a welcoming and practical environment to work and play in.