



## Reception Classroom Extension, Bedfordshire

**Client:** Laburnum Lower School

**Project value:** £115,000

### Problem:

Laburnum Lower School is located within the Sandy Conservation Area. The older part of the school - first opened in 1907 - has attractive red brick elevations and clay roof tiles, with the added architectural feature of a distinctive tall bell tower. The Reception Class had outgrown its space in the older main building and needed a new purpose designed classroom in order to function effectively and also to continue to meet the needs of the community. Conservation Area status meant that any extension had to be sensitively designed and carefully matched to the school site.

### Solution:

The school has recently embarked on a series of improvements: firstly a Sure Start Children's Centre extension was added, followed by a new free-standing dining hall - both designed and project managed by PCMS Design. After conducting a site suitability assessment, we identified that an extension could be made to the school buildings to create an additional 85m<sup>2</sup> of floor space for the Reception Class. The extension was sympathetically designed with high windows, stonework features and architectural detailing in order to blend seamlessly with the existing brickwork.

### Result:

The new classroom links via a short corridor to the adjacent nursery, allowing facilities such as a cloakroom and WCs to be shared, and also enabling all of the early year's children to be located in one wing of the school. Both teachers and children are benefitting from the extra space and brand new facilities. Headteacher Janice Pibworth said "Everything has been managed efficiently by PCMS Design, and they were always on hand to deal with any queries."