



Two Classroom Modular Unit

Client: Maple Tree Primary School, Sandy, Bedfordshire

Project value: £315,000

Problem:

The former Maple Tree Lower School was in the process of converting to a Primary, and there was a requirement to quickly provide additional classroom space for the increasing number of pupils. Although Maple Tree is a relatively modern school, the site is somewhat constrained and is not suitable for a large scale extension to the main building without encroaching onto the playing field. The extra classrooms were required very quickly in time for the new school year in the autumn.

Solution:

We recommended a modular solution in order to speed up the construction process. A suitable site was selected close to the main driveway and entrance gate. On behalf of the school, we quickly applied for planning permission for a bespoke modular double classroom design; a major advantage of this is that the layout and internal spaces can be matched to the school's needs. Attention was paid to ensure an attractive external finish; a combination of natural timber cladding and render help to disguise the fact that the building is modular, and presents a neat and tidy façade towards the school's main entrance. A local manufacturer and installer won the contract, and their staff were always close at hand with assistance and advice; a further benefit of this was that regular visits could be made to the factory to see manufacture of the unit as it progressed.

Result:

Staff at the school are absolutely delighted with the new classrooms which are comfortable and warm. They will be used for pre-school children who have moved out of the main building allowing a minor reorganisation of space to take place. Although modular, the new classrooms have the feel of permanence and the project provided a very speedy and cost effective solution to extra space requirements. Head teacher Cath Bainbridge commented: "I wanted to say how grateful we are for providing us with this amazing building. It is certainly more than we had dared dream of, and once the children are in their new rooms it will feel a very welcome addition to the school."