

LOCATION:

Appleton Academy
Wyke, Bradford

Modular SEND Classrooms for Appleton Academy

CLIENT:

City of Bradford Metropolitan
District Council

PROJECT SUMMARY:

- Design and construction of a modular building to provide additional SEN space to meet increased local needs
- Three classrooms, breakout room, washroom facilities, office, staffroom and plant room
- Six modular bays
- Teaching walls and padded wall to breakout room
- Colours and acoustics designed to specialist SEND requirements
- Western Red Cedar cladding externally to match aesthetics of main school building
- Fire detection and intruder alarm installations
- Recessed entrance lobby feature
- Floor area 222m²
- All groundworks, foundations and drainage
- All associated external works including permanent fencing, tarmac surfacing and landscaping
- Completed April 2021
- Project value £459,000

CHALLENGE:

Appleton Academy is part of Exceed Academies Trust, serving some of the highest levels of social and economic challenges in the city. Schools within the Trust are some of the highest performing, both locally and nationally.

The Academy is housed in a high profile building which links the three phases of learning in a single circular building wrapping around a naturally landscaped central garden. When additional space was required for a SEND classroom block, it was essential that the design and materials complemented the award-winning architecture of the main school building.



PROJECT CASE STUDY



Enviro Building Solutions were appointed to build a new SEN unit on the grounds of Appleton Academy, Bradford. All works were completed on schedule, on cost and to an excellent standard, to the satisfaction of both the school and Bradford Council."

Christophe Hamard

Senior Project Manager, City of Bradford
Metropolitan District Council



From an Estate Manager's perspective Enviro were easy to work with during the build phase and adapted to the need of the Academy throughout in what has been a challenging times with issues such as access and weather on site. Professional at all times, keeping me informed on a daily basis around the build. The end result is a building that fits in with both the appearance and the ethos of the Academy."

John Wavell

Estates Manager, Appleton Academy

The Requirement

With an expanding requirement for SEN places, Appleton Academy was seeking to commission a three classroom block to accommodate 18-21 children. With a very short window for completion of the project, modular building methods provided the best option in terms of speed, cost and quality combined with the necessary flexibility to incorporate all the different aspects required by this SEN build.

Taking into account the short time window for project completion, the build was planned in careful detail to ensure material shortages due to the coronavirus pandemic would not impact upon completion times.

An EPC A rating and excellent U-value results

Premium M&E specified at tender stage by the client, coupled with the building fabric and make up specified by Enviro Building Solutions means that this build achieved an EPC A rating. This was not a requirement of the contract but illustrates the overall build quality achieved.

Matching the SEN requirements

Specialist interior fittings included teaching walls and the installation of a padded wall in the breakout room, with colour choices, acoustics and lighting all designed to create the calm and serene atmosphere which was an essential component of the build.

The objective is to create the perfect conditions for the four key areas specified in the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice, namely communication and interaction, cognition and learning, support for social, emotional and mental health difficulties and sensory and/or physical needs.

For security and operational purposes, the build also included BMS (Building Management System), CCTV and door entry fob systems linking into the school's existing provisions.

External specifications

The exterior has been clad using natural and sustainably sourced Western Red Cedar from Canadian forests, offering the highest levels of durability, stability and resistance to decay.

Alongside the construction and internal fit-out, the team from Enviro Building Solutions also completed all necessary external works including permanent fencing, surfacing and turfing as well as the provision and installation of solid timber planters.

With just eight weeks to complete the build, modular construction methods proved the ideal choice. Although severe weather conditions affected the actual installation, the entire build was completed on time and to budget.



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