

Eco-education Southfields School, Peterborough

Kier Construction Eastern

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Client

Project overview

Kier has been appointed by Peterborough City Council to construct a new-build extension to the school, linking together the existing infant and junior schools. This new extension will house six classrooms, WC facilities, a new ICT suite, meeting and administration rooms, and a new office for the Head teacher. The extension will enable the school to increase their capacity to 600+ students, fulfilling a much-needed increase in demand.

Part of our work was to improve or fix existing features around the school, of which there were many. The school has invested heavily in the environmental awareness of its pupils. Our site team perceived this to be one of the best school surroundings in terms of the environment, within urban setting. In light of this, they wanted to raise the profile of the school.

What were the biodiversity conditions on site, prior to the enhancement?

Established allotment, great wildlife enhancements around site as well as a pond which has been developed over the past few years. Mature trees, some of which are covered by TPO's, providing foraging opportunities and habitats for birds and bats.

Were there any specific conditions that led to you carrying out this work?

No specific conditions, the school is extremely driven to improve pupils environmental awareness, and to provide the best learning environment possible in order to enable this to happen.

SHE News



Bob the Builder's cousin, Kieran, visits Southfields School

On Wednesday 16 September, Health and Safety Advisor, Nigel Kew, and Environmental Advisor, Dora Zielinski, led an assembly at Southfields School in Peterborough. Kier's mascot, Kieran, also made the trip - and was introduced to all of the children as Bob the Builder's cousin.

Kier is currently on site at the school building an extension that will link the infant and primary schools together, and provide an additional six classrooms.



Nigel and Dora explained to the children - some of whom had only turned four the week before - how they could take care of their environment, and the health and safety implications of working on site. They invited a volunteer to join them at the front and try on the PPE that the site team have to wear every day.

The real star of the show was Kieran, who with only a wave, caused a ripple of excitement through the 600 children. They couldn't wait to thank him with a high five on the way out.



SHE Newswire - Keeping Eastern Informed



SHE Newswire after school visit

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

The Client (Southfields School), a state run school, has invested heavily to improve the environment around the school. You can find everything a young explorer may need to expand their understanding of wildlife and the environment around them.

The allotment is run by the pupils; daily watering and general work around the garden are part of the every day timetable of the school. Within the school grounds, besides allotments and fruit orchards; a dinosaur park, traveller camp, mud kitchen, large wildlife pond, WWII bunker, outside classroom, wildlife garden with bird boxes, bat boxes and bug hotels can all be found. Fruit and vegetables grown at the school are also used in their cooking classes.

Kier jumps at the opportunity to work closely with clients in order to leave a positive, lasting legacy. A school assembly was organised **“Safety and environment around us and on construction site”**, in order to raise awareness of potential dangers on site. This was a successful engagement with roughly 480 pupils being addressed. Some small gifts such as activity booklets were also donated for the children to use.

It was difficult to enhance an already outstanding learning environment. After long discussions, a mini construction site complete with mini digger and full sets of PPE was created.



Just a few examples of how the school is enhancing and improving the learning environment

How would you best describe the project?

An enhancement

Further information

During construction, the team were trying to improve the sustainable credibility around site by installing solar powered safety lighting, as well as collecting rain water for use on site.

External elements of the project were carried out with great care, in order to avoid causing damage to existing features of the school. Further native fruit trees were planted within the orchard; in addition to wildflower seed mix being used where possible instead of traditional grass seed mixes.

As part of our engagement with the client, it was suggested that over 1000m³ of excavation waste could be retained on site for the creation of a new BMX track. This was very well received not only by the school due to the financial saving, but also the pupils who will benefit from the use of a great new facility.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

Within the industry we benefit from being able to work with a variety of clients. Site team as well as visitors to site were really impressed with the schools environmentally orientated facilities. More schools should aspire to be like Southfield School, teaching core values surrounding the environment in conjunction with other key aspects of the curriculum.



Solar powered light used on site