

Education ~ Orchard Park Primary School

Impington, Cambridgeshire



Concept Landscape Masterplan.

Project Description

This recently built school is located on the outskirts of Impington in Cambridgeshire, set within extensive school grounds with native hedges, trees and shrub beds and a low grassed mound with a timber, green roof outdoor classroom to the rear.

Unfortunately, the existing provision of classroom space, play & landscape was not well considered in the initial design in terms of size, layout & plant species choice, resulting in the need for an extension, with a need for the relocation & losses to existing planting, relocation of new play equipment and relocation of the existing outdoor, green roof classroom.

As part of the Milestone 3 and 4 requirements, it was necessary to provide a landscape design & external space strategy for outdoor learning that complemented the Primary School's proposed extension.

A staff room courtyard and variety of outdoor classroom styles are proposed adjacent to the new extension, offering extended teaching opportunities. Each outdoor classroom is paved and enclosed with low timber fences & gates, themed by different colours to provide an active zone; a calm zone & relaxing zone, based on reds, blues and shades of green, used within the materials palette. Ground level planting provides colour, scent and seasonal interest. Timber benches are positioned next to the planting beds, enabling pupils to use the classrooms for storytelling or science projects.

The trim trail, located to the front of the school building is to be relocated, allowing an extension to the hardcourt play provision and creation of a netball court. A new access path will link the relocated trim trail with the outdoor classrooms, leading pupils around to the rear of the school. The existing timber outdoor classroom is to be relocated on a grass mound to provide natural surveillance over an informal, grass kick about space.

Significant Head Teacher involvement resulted in extensive meetings & parental consultation on the design of the external space to establish an approved scheme.

ELD Requirements

- To undertake a site visit to meet with the School Head and understand the brief;
- To identify areas of vegetation that could be retained or relocated;
- To assess play provision & produce concept masterplan options for discussion with the Head, that complement the existing school & proposed extension;
- To produce detailed scheme designs, with a schedule of quantities and specifications for planting and maintenance.

Project Particulars

Client: Cambridge County Council
 Architect: Pick Everard
 Capital Value: £1.6 million



Hard & Soft Landscape Material Palette.