

# Cwmbach Primary School



**Client:** Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

**Facilities:** 210 place Primary School

**Completed:** August 2013

**Cost:** £4.3m



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## Key Facts

- Delivered through the SEWSCAP Framework.
- Single Stage Tender: NEC option A contract.
- The scheme comprises of 1666m<sup>2</sup> new build and 278m<sup>2</sup> refurbishment.
- BREEAM Excellent and EPC A rated requirements.
- Technical aspects: Sloping Site, green roof, circular design, The existing junior school remained operational at all time.

## Introduction

The project involved the creation of a new, 'all through' primary school in Cwmbach.

The contract comprised of the design and construction of a new 5 classroom infant block together with nursery, hall and ancillary accommodation built on the site of the existing Cwmbach Junior School. The existing junior school is retained with refurbishment and modifications to the existing kitchen and administration area and the adaptations required to link with the new building.

The site generally comprises of two plateaus, the existing junior school being located on the lower plateau and the new infant block being cut into the upper playing field plateau.

The new development provides for two vehicular entrances. The existing school access point being maintained on the lower plateau and a secondary entrance created to the upper level for access to car parking and a drop off area. Pedestrian access to the school is maintained from existing pathways at the lower level and at the rear of the building a new ramp is provided around the perimeter to provide access to the two levels of the site.

A new multi-purpose games area is provided on the upper plateau.

## Project Successes

- BREEAM A and EPC A
- £1.86 achieved for Welsh Local Multiplier
- 83% of subcontract orders delivered locally
- 99% of waste diverted from landfill



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## Construction Information

The site is located to the south-east of Aberdare. The existing school was constructed around 1999 using a mixture of steel frame, metal clad roof and rendered masonry walls. The internal walls are plastered blockwork with glazing.

The existing site is split into two areas with approximately 4-5m difference in levels between the northern portion which consists mainly of playing fields and the southern portion which houses the school.

The new school has strip and pad foundations with a concrete and steel retaining wall cut into the sloping site. A steel frame supports the roof and partial upper floor area.

The roof is formed from purlins supporting a 'Blackdown' plug planted Green Roof and cladding. Externally walls are a combination of SFS and blockwork with a render finish. Internal partitions are decorated plasterboard.

## Testimonials

*"Due to your attention to detail we have a school that looks impressive but is also a delight to occupy. The children are thrilled to have such a purpose built environment to work and play in.*

*During the build I found that you and Mike were good communicators, making my life much easier. It also meant that when problems arose we could work together to solve them. The involvement of the children in the project was a particular coup as this developed the pupils' understanding of the work that was being carried out and how to behave when on a building site. The regular visits meant that excitement about the development of the school was kept high. This was important as it enabled the staff to maintain a focus with the children of working together as a team and a whole school.*

*Thank you for all your hard work and the professional way you managed the whole project. I believe it has been a great success on many levels."*

**Eileen King, Headteacher, Cwmbach Primary**

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