



Pontprennau School

Client: Cardiff Council • Material: trespa Facade Panels
 Sector: Education • Build Type: New Build



Based at the rear of the community centre in Heol Pontprennau, the new English-medium primary educational facility - Pontprennau School - has been developed to help meet the projected rise in demand for primary places and to enhance education standards. The school will provide 14 classrooms with a capacity of 420 places to accommodate pupils aged three to 11. It will also include a nursery which will provide 48 full time equivalent places.

The development of Pontprennau School is the result of an investment of more than £7million from the City of Cardiff Council and the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme. It will also create greater economies and efficiencies for learning environments through better use of resources by providing a sustainable education system that meets national building standards and reduces the recurrent costs and carbon footprint of buildings.

RCM were appointed by the subcontractor MH Massey, in conjunction with the architect, to provide Trespa Meteon® panels.

The Trespa® colours used for the project were 900m2 of 8mm thick Natural Begenda panels and 250m2 of Trespa® Metallic graphite grey. The key driver behind the specification decision and the appointment of RCM was that they were able to fully optimise the panels from the architectural drawings. RCM offered full fabrication, delivering the products in elevations to facilitate rapid installation on site.

Ian Quinton, Managing Director of RCM said of the build: "Working closely with the installation team delivered outstanding results - we were able to deliver our fully fabricated Trespa® panels to site on time and to the correct specification, helping to provide an outstanding facility for generations to come."

Trespa Meteon® architectural cladding panels are extensively used in external vertical applications such as facade cladding, fascias, soffits, balcony cladding and balustrades. Available in five sheet sizes and a wide range of thicknesses Trespa Meteon® panels are highly weather and UV

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resistant, and come in a wide range of standard colours, effects and finishes. The smooth closed surface of Trespa Meteon® panels means they can withstand dirt accumulation making the product easy to clean and with very low maintenance - ideal for educational buildings.

Consistent and with high density throughout, Trespa Meteon® holds screws and other mechanical fixings solidly. The panels have good compressive and tensile strength with excellent pull-out and impact resistance but remain easily machinable and workable like hardwood.

The main challenge during this build for RCM was ensuring all panel sizes were correct. The Natural Bagenda colour panels proved challenging due to the design lead time. The panels were all cut into equal 214mm strips to create a natural plank effect pattern, in order to ensure minimum wastage. In order to overcome this challenge, RCM worked closely with the installer, holding workshops before and during the project. The workshops allowed the teams to talk through potential issues, avoiding problems onsite, as well as providing confirmation of the panel's workability and agreeing panel sizes.

Speaking about the community benefits that the school will bring to Pontprennau – Cabinet Member for Education, Cllr Sarah Merry said: “The main focus of the school will naturally be to provide an excellent education for the pupils. The Council recognises that schools can offer great benefits the wider community, becoming a social hub by making good use of the facilities outside school hours.”

Established in 2004, RCM is a major supplier of complete through wall solutions to the UK construction industry. Supplying specialist building boards, façades, breather membranes and airtightness solutions, RCM offers a fully integrated approach to the building envelope whilst delivering on time and budget.

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