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Supplier

Pilton Infants School

Devon County Council

 **Client:** Pearce Construction

 **Sector:** Education

 **Location:** Barnstaple, Devon

The Brief

Pilton Infants School required three ageing teaching blocks to be replaced with a modern, permanent modular building providing improved accommodation for pupils and staff. The new facility needed to incorporate three classrooms, pupil welfare facilities, storage and cloakroom provision while integrating with the existing school environment and supporting fully accessible movement throughout.

Elite Systems was appointed by Pearce Construction to design, manufacture, deliver and install the modular building package. Manufactured off-site within our dedicated production facility, the completed building combines spacious teaching accommodation with durable internal finishes, modern building services and a contemporary Siberian Larch façade. The project was carefully coordinated around demolition, groundworks and external works being delivered by the principal contractor within a live infant school.

 **Project:** Three-Classroom Modular Building

 **Location:** Barnstaple, Devon

 **Project Cost:** £585,223.16

 **Timeline:** 10 Weeks from Manufacture to Handover

 **Key Features:** Three permanent classrooms, entrance lobby and cloakroom, pupil WC facilities, accessible WC, dedicated stores, in-class utility sinks, Siberian Larch cladding, pitched roof, solar photovoltaic panels, MVHR ventilation, air conditioning, daylight-dimming LED lighting and complete modular manufacture, delivery and installation.

The Main Features

Inside

- ✓ **Three Teaching Spaces-** Three purpose-designed classrooms provide spacious, flexible learning environments suited to infant education. Each classroom incorporates dedicated teaching walls, utility sink provision, extensive electrical and data infrastructure and direct access to supporting accommodation.
- ✓ **Pupil Facilities-** The building includes dedicated pupil toilets, an accessible WC and modern wash facilities. Junior-height sanitaryware, sensor-operated taps, anti-finger-trap cubicles and accessible fittings create a safe, inclusive environment designed around younger pupils.
- ✓ **Comfort & Ventilation-** Each classroom incorporates ceiling-mounted air conditioning and a dedicated MVHR system designed for up to 32 occupants. Temperature and carbon dioxide controls help maintain comfortable conditions and good indoor air quality throughout the school day.
- ✓ **Durable Finishes** Durable Finishes-Hard-wearing carpet was installed within the classrooms, with barrier matting to entrances and cloakrooms and non-slip vinyl to toilets and wet areas. Acoustic suspended ceilings, impact-resistant walls and robust ironmongery support the demands of a busy infant school.



Outside

- ✓ **Contemporary Appearance-** The building is finished in natural Siberian Larch cladding, creating a warm and contemporary appearance that complements the landscaped school setting. Dark contrasting roof details, windows and doors provide a clean, permanent architectural finish.
- ✓ **Pitched Roof & Solar Panels-** A pitched insulated roof improves the building's permanent appearance and supports an integrated solar photovoltaic installation, helping reduce operational energy demand and contributing to the school's wider environmental objectives.
- ✓ **Level Access-** The building was installed at carefully coordinated levels to provide level-threshold access. New paving and external circulation areas connect the classrooms safely with the existing school environment and support inclusive access for pupils, staff and visitors.
- ✓ **External Integration-** The wider scheme included foundations, retaining structures, drainage, services, resurfacing, fencing, planting and landscaping. Close coordination between Elite Systems and the principal contractor ensured the modular building integrated effectively with these surrounding works.



Challenges

The project presented numerous challenges, which we addressed with determination and creativity. Some of the key obstacles included:



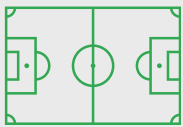
Three-Block Replacement

The scheme replaced three separate ageing teaching blocks with one purpose-designed building. The new layout had to consolidate the existing accommodation into three modern classrooms while also incorporating toilets, stores, cloakroom space and accessible facilities within an efficient footprint.



Live Infant School

Demolition and construction took place in close proximity to young pupils, staff and visitors. The works required secure segregation, controlled deliveries and careful management of noise, dust and vibration while maintaining clear emergency routes and protecting day-to-day school activities.



Playing-Field Access

The building location required delivery and crane access across the school playing field. Temporary trackway, crane mats, a dedicated access route and a temporary ramp over the existing highway kerb were required, followed by full removal and reinstatement of affected grassed areas.



Ground Levels

The sloping site required excavation and removal of part of an existing grassed bank to accommodate the building. Foundations, retaining structures and external levels had to be carefully coordinated to provide level access while integrating with surrounding paving and drainage.



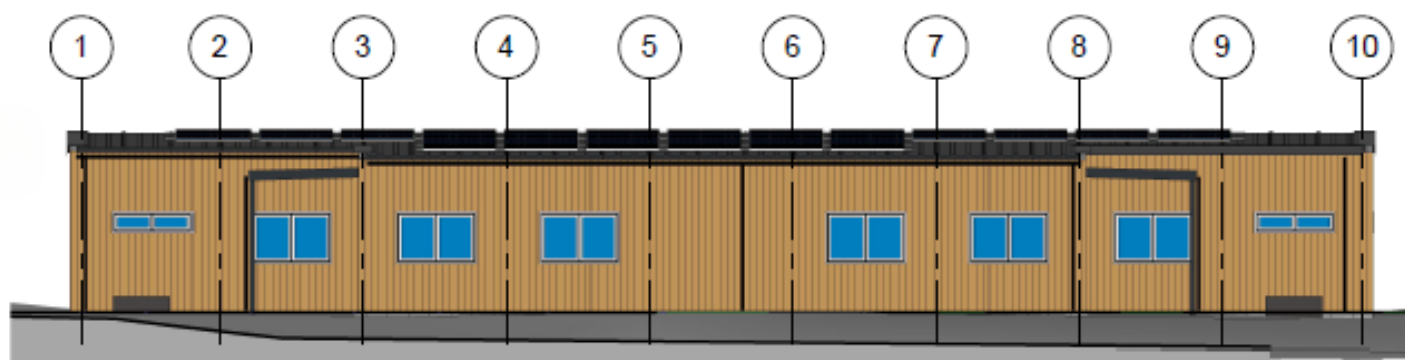
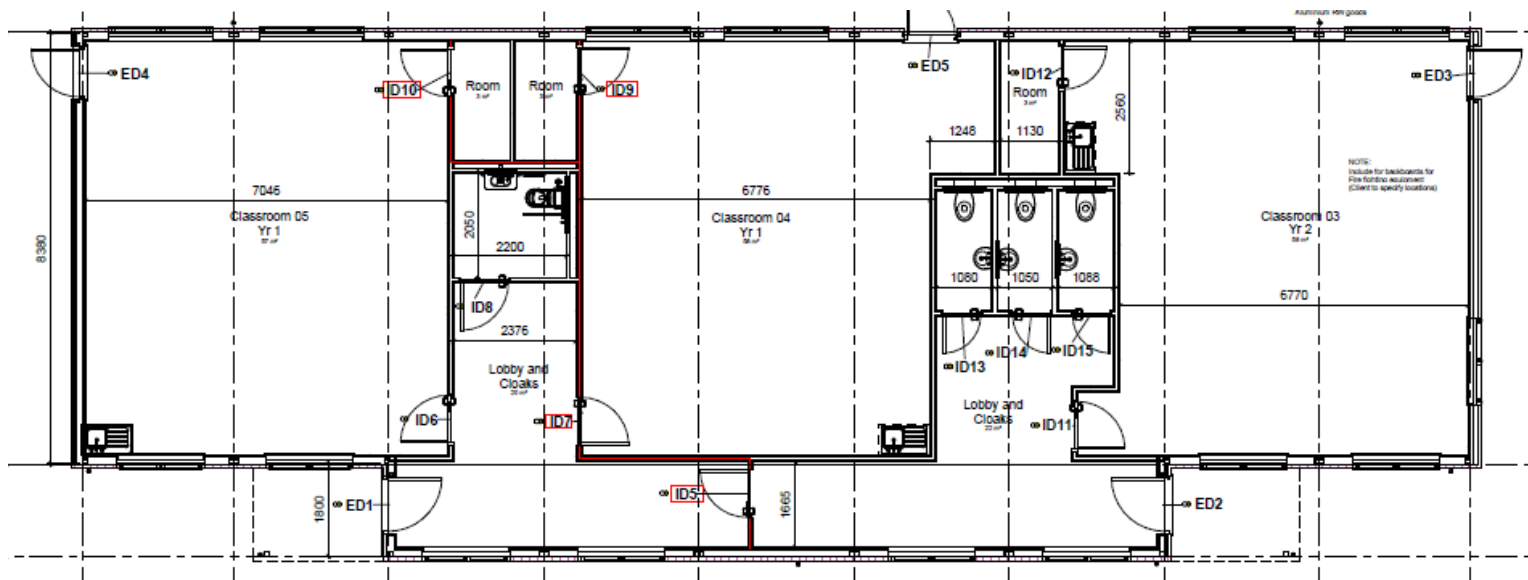
Service Coordination

New electrical, data, fire alarm, intruder alarm, water and drainage systems had to be coordinated with the existing school infrastructure. Existing underground services required careful identification and protection before demolition, excavation and connection activities could proceed.



Programme Integration

Elite Systems' factory manufacture, installation and fit-out programme had to align with demolition, foundations and external works being delivered by Pearce Construction. The modular units were manufactured in 15 working days before being installed in one day, followed by internal finishing, M&E services and commissioning.



The Design

The building was designed to consolidate three separate teaching blocks into one cohesive educational facility. The layout places the classrooms alongside dedicated stores, pupil welfare accommodation and a shared entrance and cloakroom, creating clear circulation and practical separation between teaching and support spaces.

Externally, Siberian Larch cladding and a pitched roof give the building a permanent architectural character, while internally the specification combines modern services, acoustic finishes and robust materials selected specifically for use within an infant school.



The Results

The completed Pilton Infants School project has replaced three outdated teaching blocks with a modern, permanent facility designed specifically around the needs of pupils and staff. The three bright classrooms, integrated storage, cloakroom and accessible welfare accommodation provide a significant improvement to the school's teaching environment.

Delivered in collaboration with Pearce Construction, the modular building was manufactured off-site in 15 working days and installed in a single day, reducing the duration and impact of construction activity within the live school. Subsequent fit-out, decoration, M&E installation, commissioning and external interface works were completed through a carefully coordinated programme.

The finished facility combines contemporary Siberian Larch cladding and a pitched roof with energy-efficient services, solar technology and durable education-grade finishes. The result is an attractive, comfortable and low-maintenance building that provides Pilton Infants School with high-quality permanent teaching accommodation for many years to come.

