

# Mayflower Community School, Plymouth



Walkways with support columns in primary colours

## Challenge

Mayflower School is a Primary School for children aged three to eleven. It is one of three new schools which opened in September 2009, the opening of which marked the end of another chapter in Plymouth Council's ambitious strategy to replace costly, ageing buildings with better facilities and to "ensure that schools are at the heart of regenerating and inspiring communities". The three schools collectively amounted to a £21 million investment.

The high-tech Mayflower Community School replaces North Prospect Community and South Trelawny Primary Schools and has been designed to take into account the latest education technology as well as incorporating eco-friendly building standards and community facilities.

The Mayflower School was designed to provide the children with more outdoor space and uses a Pavilion in the Park theme, to bring the outdoors indoors.

The school is built on council land which the two original schools had used for sports days. The new impressive site included several buildings containing hi-tech IT facilities, which were built around several outdoor play areas and alongside two full-sized, fully drained football pitches. As the design included separate buildings, the core areas of the school needed to be linked by walkways to provide shelter for the students as they moved between lessons.

The area and the site were particularly challenging, Plymouth being a coastal area meant that the surrounding atmosphere contains a high amount of saline which is particularly damaging to steel and other materials. Added to this the areas where the walkways were required were on a gradient and they would also need to be built around corners. Covered storage for the children's cycles was also needed.

## The Solution

Consultation between the client, the architect and the contractor led to the conclusion that the best solution was to build a bespoke canopy and walkway that best suited the site. A bespoke canopy was designed which was a variation on the popular J Series. Marshalls Urban Structures designed a walkway that took into account the changes in direction of the shelter and stepped it to take account of the gradient of the site. As the site was in a coastal location the steelwork was hot dipped galvanised to protect it from the saline in the environment and to prevent rust and corrosion. A roof in Opaque PET cladding was also specified to overcome the unsightly mess caused by seagulls.



# Marshalls

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Overview of site showing walkway stepped to suit gradient

The walkway had to be robust and require minimal maintenance and it was decided that the support columns would be painted in primary colours to provide a fun, vibrant environment to fit in with the Pavilion in the Park Theme. More importantly the bright colours would also provide a good Light Reflection Value 'LRV' against walls and doors. LRV is a universal value for contrast; it measures the proportion of useful light reflected by a coloured object. Since the publication in 2004 in the Building Regulations 'Access to and the Use of Buildings' light reflectance values have become increasingly important. The guidance highlights the need for certain features to contrast visually with their

surroundings in order to assist the visually impaired with the navigation of their environment.

A Petal Shelter was also specified to provide an outdoor classroom or a fun meeting area for the children. The shelter will provide important UV shade and protection from the weather whilst the children are outdoors. A double A series cycle shelter was installed to provide capacity to park 20 cycles. As the children's age range was between three and eleven, provision was required to park bikes of different sizes and therefore two different sized bike racks were installed; the R10 senior cycle

rack and a smaller R10 junior cycle rack for the younger children's bikes.

#### Benefits

The walkways are not only functional, providing the necessary shelter, but they also add to the contemporary, bright environment of the school and complement the aesthetics of the site. In June 2010 the Mayflower Community School was a finalist in the Regional Finals of the LABC South West Building Excellence Awards in the Best Educational Development Category. It was also shortlisted by the British Council for School Environments for Best Outdoor Learning Environment.







Petal Shelter to be used as an outdoor classroom and meeting area



A Series Cycle Shelter



A Series Cycle Shelter

**Client:**  
Mayflower Community School, Plymouth


**Specialisms:**  
Marshalls Urban Structures

**Marshalls Product Used:**

- Bespoke J Series Canopy
- J Series Walkway
- A Series Cycle Shelter
- R10 Senior Cycle Rack
- R10 Junior Cycle Rack

**Contractor:**  
Devon Contractors

**Installation:**  
Marshalls Urban Structures

  
**Marshalls**  
urban structures





Walkway with support columns in primary colours







Petal Shelter



Installation Detail



Installation Detail



Installation Detail



Installation Detail