

TCRC Case Study: Westlea Primary School, Swindon



Safe, Secure Tiling System Helps Regenerate School Building

Westlea Primary School is a vibrant school in Swindon with almost 300 pupils and it gained Academy status in 2013.

When the school's 2,200m² asbestos fibre cement roof failed, causing costly damage, the governors decided to apply to the Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) for a full replacement.

A Solution to Enhance the Appearance of the School

The roof is a very prominent feature of this low-level school building, so aesthetics were an important consideration. BMI Redland's Cambrian interlocking slate tiles were subsequently chosen as the solution, due to their attractive qualities that would enhance the school's appearance.

Cambrian tiles look like natural slate because their surface patterning is taken from impressions of quarried slate and they contain more than 60% recycled slate, making it possible to reproduce a traditional roof that meets 21st century standards. They are available in a range of colours and a Slate Grey colour was selected for the school as it suited the location.

Suitable for pitches as low as 15°, Cambrians are simple to fix and are very secure once installed due to their unique three-point fixing, which has undergone robust weather testing. As a result, they are often the first choice for buildings in some of the UK's most exposed locations.

The school's roof consists of 16 hips and eight valleys, all 10m long, so TCRC's operatives laid the roof from right to left until they reached the hip from which they started.

Headteacher Sarah Sumner was delighted with the final result, commenting: "The school looks like a new building and the roof is a stunning piece of workmanship, which complements the current regeneration of the school site." She also awarded TCRC and Hookway Surveyors their very own Headteacher's Award for Good Work!

Project: Westlea Primary School

Location: Swindon, Wiltshire

Surveyors: Hookway

Products: BMI Redland Cambrian Interlocking Slate Tiles



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