

Social Value Case Study

St Agnes Primary School

Introduction:

The restoration of St Agnes School stands as a testament to the exceptional project management and community engagement efforts by J Greenwood Builders, the main contractor for this project, contracted through the Manchester City Council Small Works Framework. The project, initially intended to address long-term weathering defects in the school's timber frame, evolved into a comprehensive reconstruction project. J Greenwoods, recognised the significance of their role in the community, proactively engaging in a range of commitments and achieved substantial milestones, exemplifying their dedication to social responsibility and community empowerment.

Project Overview:

J Greenwoods commenced the project by conducting a thorough investigation in collaboration with the Manchester City Council's surveyors and specialists. The scope of the work extended beyond mere repairs, necessitating the comprehensive deconstruction of the building before reconstruction and internal enhancements could begin.

The project unfolded in several distinct stages, starting with the enveloping of the entire structure in a protective tent scaffold to mitigate further weather-related damage. Subsequently, the team initiated the careful removal of all utilities from the primary timber frame, enabling the extraction of sizable timber sections, including the parapet walls at the roof level. This preparatory phase paved the way for the commencement of the building's comprehensive reconstruction.

New brickwork parapet walls were meticulously constructed, complemented by the installation of innovative Cedral cladding on the internal roof parapet. This strategic integration created a novel rooftop outdoor space shielded from external elements by a substantial canopy structure, carefully erected from the rooftop level. To fortify the infrastructure, a cutting-edge triflex membrane roof was meticulously installed, supported by tapered insulation on the novel timber structural deck. The finishing touch comprised an Astro turf covering, rendering the roof space accessible for the school's educational and extracurricular activities.

Internally, the project undertook a thorough refurbishment and fit-out, integrating state-of-the-art mechanical underfloor heating, sprinkler systems, and ventilation services. Additionally, a comprehensive overhaul encompassed the integration of electrical power, data, and security systems. The interior transformation was completed with the installation of new ceilings and flooring, accompanied by meticulous decoration work that lent the school a refreshed and contemporary aesthetic appeal.





Commitments and Social Engagement:

1. NT1 – We propose to hire local (from GM areas) tradespeople utilising the local job agencies
2. NT8 – We will engage with at least 1 high school and provide advice and guidance on careers within construction. We will provide a minimum of 10 staff hours to attend career evenings at the high school and/or offer to attend any interview practice sessions and CV writing
3. NT7 – We will provide a minimum of 8 staff hours towards careers advice for local community youth groups
4. NT14 – We will contribute a monetary/equipment donation to St Agnes School up to the value of £1,500
5. NT8 – We will engage with at least 1 primary school (St Agnes School) and organise a visit with the pupils and teachers
6. NT17 – We will work with Jobcentre plus in Rusholme to identify support for young people whether this is support with CV writing, or interview techniques or just a listening ear for people to talk and discuss what their work plans are.
7. NT12 – We will provide 2 weeks work placement opportunities either on site or in the office for a student from a local College or University
8. NT29 – We will offer our support to a number of local community groups. The support will be based upon their needs at the time. This could be provision of resource, volunteer hours, work experience, CV writing, interview practice, career advice, trade demonstrations etc.
9. NT28 – A £200 financial contribution may be made in lieu of this, if this is more appropriate.

Achievements and Impact:

1. NT1 – We had 14 local employees working on this project, and several local subcontractors.
2. NT8 – Our Social Value Manager has been on 2 school events – Mock Interview Day and World of Work Day, both days lasting 6.5 hours each. These events help students get an idea of a real interview and what life in the construction industry is about.
3. NT29 – We have committed to volunteering with the local youth group, Levenshulme Inspire to provide CV advice, mock interviews, or career advice to their members. Our Social Value Manager will be spending a day at the youth group providing these services.

- The Works' exemplary commitment to community engagement and social responsibility throughout the restoration of St Agnes School serves as a model for fostering inclusive development and social progress. Their dedication to empowering local talent, nurturing educational environments, and supporting community groups embodies the transformative power of meaningful corporate social responsibility initiatives within the construction industry.