

# FOREST BRIDGE SCHOOL

## MAIDENHEAD

### CASE STUDY

**MAIN CONTRACTOR**  
Kier Construction Southern

**WHEN**  
Winter 2020/2021

**PRODUCTS**  
Siderise fire barriers; Kingspan  
K15 Kooltherm insulation;  
Nvelope NV6 framing system  
for timber battens; Fire  
retardant treated Siberian  
Larch cladding

### HELPING TO DELIVER IMPROVED FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN IN MAIDENHEAD

**Based in Maidenhead, Forest Bridge School is a Special Free School for children and young people between the ages of 4-16 with a primary diagnosis of autism, with up to 96 pupils when at capacity.**

The school was set up by a group of parents who wanted to ensure children with autism could receive an education tailored for their needs and had been operating from a temporary location on an old school site since opening in 2015.

Subsequently the school found a suitable permanent location in Maidenhead and appointed Kier Construction as main contractors.

The school's new location is situated within greenbelt land, but the need for the facility, together with a design for the building that was sympathetic to its surroundings, meant that the benefits for the development outweighed its limited impact on the greenbelt.



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**Paul Michaelson**  
Eden Facades Construction  
Director

The intelligently designed building recognises that children may be taught at the school for the full duration of their education, with individual wings for primary and secondary age pupils forming a central courtyard. Part single storey, part two storey, all the classrooms are on the ground floor and lead out to key stage specific external areas, to provide space for external dining and recreation.

We've worked with Kier on many previous projects and were brought in by them to supply and fix the Siberian Larch timber cladding as an insulated rainscreen cladding, including Kingspan K15 Kooltherm insulation and Siderise fire barriers.

The Kingspan Kooltherm K15 Rainscreen Board is a high-performance insulation, designed to sit behind rainscreen cladding. The rainscreen board delivers thermal conductivities as low as 0.020 W/mK and is resistant to water vapour, so won't sag or rot when behind rainscreen cladding or other surfaces. The premium product will contribute to a better overall U-value and help minimise heating demand for the school.

Brickwork and striking larch timber cladding were specified for the exterior walls of the school. As one of the most versatile and sustainable building materials, it's vital that timber is installed by a team that have the knowledge and understanding of the quality and grade required for every unique project.

In the case of the cladding used at the school, and in accordance with the specification, the timber was fire retardant treated and Osmo UV protection helping the wood to maintain its natural aesthetic and durability.

The larch cladding was installed to the exterior walls using the Nvelope NV6 system for supporting timber battens. The concealed fix system uses flexible point brackets that absorb wind loading and allow for expansion and contraction, with the bracket spacing determined by the dimension and weight of the cladding, in addition to local wind loads.

One of the design features on this project was the chunky 'hit and miss', larch cladding to the roof terrace areas on either end, designed to give students access to an external provision on the upper floors. The cladding we installed allows wind to pass through the area, whilst providing screening and a safe space for students to find quiet sanctuary.

The final aspect of our contribution to this fantastic project was to render the school's plant room, a service close to our hearts and our main offering when we started the company more than ten years ago.

Paul Michaelson, Eden Facades Construction Director, who worked closely with main contractor Kier and our team on site in Maidenhead, comments, "The school opened in spring 2021 and looks stunning. We worked well alongside the other trades on site and our team were able to be very flexible to accommodate this and ensure the school was delivered on time, and on budget. We were pleased to have been involved in such an important project and hope the children will be very happy in their new home."

## CONTACT US

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