

Sector: Education

Robertson business: Robertson Yorkshire and East Midlands

Client: NPS Group

Value: £4.3m

Date of completion: June 2016

Location: Rotherham



Goldthorpe Primary School, Barnsley

Robertson praised for its first class community innovation during its Goldthorpe Primary School project

During the building of New Goldthorpe Primary School - a new steel-framed building on a brownfield site close to the existing school - the site team pulled out all the stops to bring lasting value to the community.

Summing up the team's innovation, the Scheme Monitor said: "Although no single event could necessarily be considered to be innovative, the sheer scale of the total engagement with the school and the community has to be considered innovative."

Goldthorpe is an ex-mining community with a high level of unemployment. The former miners had little or no schooling, which has filtered down to the younger generations, resulting in higher than average levels of illiteracy in the town.

Poverty is also a major issue for the neighbourhood, with around 20% of the students at Goldthorpe Primary School previously going to school without breakfast - until the school and the Robertson team stepped in to help.

Keen to address this problem to ensure the children can concentrate on learning, school staff attended work early and fed approximately 50 students per day.

This was supported by the site team who raised funds for food through its 'Give a Breakfast for the Breakfast Club' incentive, even helping to serve the food. This approach (among other incentives) helped to deliver the best performing school in the area.

Gordon Fawcett, Project Manager said: "Every site operative donated the cost of a breakfast sandwich to the funds and, with the assistance of local shopkeepers, we managed to supply enough food to the school to provide breakfast for the students for four weeks."

Here are some of the team's most notable community successes:

- Weekly site visits for the children, which included taking turns on the 'big digger'.
- Gordon and his team attended the school regularly, giving presentations on various aspects of the build to tie in with the curriculum, which was modified to include the building process.
- Numerous materials and man-hours were given to the school in order to help with both the curriculum and the enhancement of school facilities.
- A trip was organised for the children to visit a steel fabrication company 35 miles away, where the frame for the building was being produced.
- A local community build programme was introduced to encourage youngsters into the industry, with the site adapting its operations to enable the young people to experience real work situations.
- Robertson introduced incentives to purchase goods from the retailers in the area, to benefit the local economy. This included entering every receipt from a local shop into a prize draw.
- On 'Earth Day', 23 students and four staff attended site and, with the assistance of site management, planted 23 edible hedge plants in advance of the school being handed over.



"The Considerate Constructors Scheme provides a series of benchmarks that are above the average building site operational standards. When these benchmarks are met, or bettered, the entire community benefits."

Gordon Fawcett.
Project Manager