

**5 July 2024**

## **Volunteers makeover Bletchley primary school playground**

A group of volunteers from Mears Group have given a complete makeover to the playground at a Bletchley primary school.

Over four days, a team braved the elements to revamp the play area at Bishop Parker Catholic Primary School and Nursery in Bletchley, supported by a £1,000 Green Spaces grant from the Mears Foundation.

Work at the playground included painting existing fencing, sheds, pergolas, and playhouses and planting up raised beds before the installation of new fencing to a raised area adjacent to the playground.

Surplus materials including paint were donated to the school once the project had been completed, and plans are in motion to buy and install a new bench made from recycled materials.

**Sophia Sikor, EYFS Lead (Early Years Foundation Stage) at Bishop Catholic Primary School said:**

“We are all beyond grateful for the transformation. It honestly has made a huge impact on the outdoor areas; everyone comments on how much brighter and cheerier it looks now. The children are maintaining the plant areas. We are looking forward to the next step now the fencing has gone up in the nursery garden. Again, we are so grateful for the time and money you have saved us by completing the fencing. We honestly can’t thank you enough.”

**Carly Glover, Head of Operations, Mears Group added:**

“We were delighted to have the opportunity to transform the area for the children at Bishop Parker school. The project has been a brilliant example of the Mears team working collaboratively to deliver back to the Milton Keynes community, demonstrating our core values of social value being at the heart of everything we do. Using the Green Spaces Grant via the Mears Foundation, we were able to encompass lots of improvements to the school, with a fresh new look to external areas. I’m sure this will have a really positive impact for years to come.”

Mears provides compliance works, gas repairs, responsive repairs, voids, planned and SHDF services to homes for Milton Keynes Council. Started in 2016, the contract spans over 11,000 properties within the area.

## **ENDS**

### About Mears Group

Mears Group is the largest provider of repairs and maintenance, Facilities Management, housing management and regeneration services across the UK. Mears provides tailored rapid-response and planned maintenance services through partnering arrangements with more than 70 local authorities, Arm's Length Management Organisations and Housing Associations.

With more than 5,500 employees, we work with clients to help develop, fund, and implement innovative solutions. We are a highly responsible partner, who is committed to delivering the highest levels of customer service; keeping our promises; creating a great place to work and tackling issues that matter to people and communities.

Our ambition is to become the most socially responsible business in the housing sector by 2025. Our approach prioritises where we can have the greatest impact and supports a culture that fully integrates sustainability and purpose beyond profit.

[www.mearsgroup.co.uk](http://www.mearsgroup.co.uk)

### About the Mears Foundation

The Mears Foundation is the independent, charitable arm of Mears Group.

The Foundation only accepts Community Grant applications within the UK that are proposed by a Friend of the Foundation or by an employee of Mears.

[www.themearsfoundation.org.uk](http://www.themearsfoundation.org.uk)