

Special school helped by local company

Dorset-based Siemens has recently completed another project in the community on behalf of The Wessex Autistic Society. A new pedestrian crossing has been donated to Portfield School, Christchurch to help school children with autism improve their levels of road safety awareness in a controlled environment.

A group of graduate volunteers at Siemens managed the project and the equipment was installed at no cost by the company's Field Services division, also based in Poole. The pedestrian crossing equipment donated by Siemens includes push buttons incorporating audible and tactile indicators, ensuring that road safety training can be performed with a wide range of groups.

Gary Winstanley, Siemens' Supply Chain Director said: 'Encouraged by those involved in the company, supporting the local community and helping groups in need is very important. It's also highly rewarding to see such schemes in place, providing real benefits and making a positive difference to peoples' lives.'

Andrew Thomas, Director of Portfield School; 'The new equipment is a great asset to the school allowing us to enhance the life skills and independence of our students. Supporting the students and the school in this way is tremendous and we are extremely grateful to all parties. The new equipment has already had a positive impact on the student's level of road safety awareness. '

Portfield School, located in Parley near Christchurch, is run by the Society and currently educates 60 pupils aged 3-19 and tailors the educational curriculum according to each pupils needs, focusing on individuals' strengths as well as addressing the learning disabilities associated with autism.

The Society is committed to ensuring that people with autism should enjoy the same rights and privileges as the rest of the population, including the right to accessible and suitable activities.

For further information about Portfield School visit: www.twas.org.uk or call - 01202 573808

About Siemens in the UK

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