

CASE STUDY

Project: Shenstone School Facilities
Client: Shenstone School, Bexley LEA
Project Type: SoundPlay equipment



The Background

Shenstone School, near Bexley, is a Community Special School for pupils who have severe and complex learning difficulties. Pupils have statements of special educational need for their severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties and include pupils with autistic spectrum disorders and those with severe medical needs.



The Solution

The school invested in a set of Soundplay outdoor musical equipment from SSP. SoundPlay consists of tuned percussion instruments ranging from drums to xylophones and glockenspiels. These can be deployed individually, in an outdoor orchestra setting or as part of an activity playground.

Soundplay acts as a creative outlet, heightening self-esteem and listening skills whilst also providing real learning by enabling pupils to develop an understanding of vibration, resonance, pitch and tone. It is, therefore, ideally suited to helping Shenstone's pupils to get the most out of their education. The school has integrated a turtle drum, palm drum, rain wheel, alligator drum and an Amadinda xylophone into a sensory garden that also includes flowers, textures and water.

SSP's SoundPlay equipment complies with DDA requirements (all of the components are accessible from a wheelchair) as well as meeting NCCA guidelines for special educational needs. The instruments will be used to achieve

The Challenge

Shenstone School has always strived to deliver an excellent environment for its pupils and has been rewarded with national 'Healthy Schools' awards. Given the wide range of ages and abilities of the pupils at the school it is important to provide facilities that cater for the needs of all children in an accessible and inclusive way. The Governors and Head Teacher of the school wanted to diversify the creative and sensory experiences available to children outside of structured class sessions.



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concrete learning objectives, enabling pupils to increase their spatial awareness, hone their fine and gross motor skills, and increase their levels of concentration on an individual basis. The school will also use the equipment to encourage pupils to interact with and take control of their environment through exploratory play.

The Result

The children at Shenstone School will benefit from a new and exciting addition to their school environment. Children

with learning difficulties respond very well to SoundPlay. As Linda Crawley, Head Teacher of Aboyne Lodge Primary School commented, "We've found that the equipment is exciting and interesting for all the children allowing them to interact with each other very well and play on an equal footing. Autistic and Downs Syndrome children are often frightened by loud noises and at first some of them were reluctant to use the instruments. It was noticeable, however, that the surprisingly mellow tones produced by the equipment encouraged these children to become more actively involved and to start enjoying the experience".



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