

Case Study – Marish School



Overview

Marish Primary School in Slough is a community co-educational primary school with 650 pupils aged between 4 and 11, with 90 pupils in each year group. In 2004 Marish Junior School merged with Marish Infant School to create Marish Primary, and the school celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2005. In 2004 Marish Junior School was looking for a way to do something special with their IT suite, and were put in touch with us through an IT supplier who thought we could provide the bespoke solution they were looking for.

The brief

The school management was struggling with the problems presented by conventional desks and ICT equipment: mainly how to make their ICT suite accessible for children of all ages, and also make best use of their available space. As the school would soon be a Primary School, height adjustability was an important consideration, in order to cater for the different age groups and wheelchair users; Sheila Bond, Bursar at Marish School notes “The difference in the children’s size when they come to the school and when they leave is phenomenal” and their existing ICT suite was not addressing this. Space is often an issue in schools, and this is especially true of ICT suites where the computer equipment vies with the children for the space. This is a significant problem; often class sizes need to be limited causing timetable pressures, or children are forced to share equipment and consequently cannot learn at their own pace. Marish School’s previous ICT room only accommodated 18 standard tower case computers, meaning that two children often shared one PC.

The classroom transformed

Marish School now has 11 powerlifting desks in a bright, attractive and cheerful jigsaw pattern. The surface is durable, hygienic Corian and the school were able to choose their colours from over 100 on offer. The design is aesthetically pleasing to both children and staff. Every desk is fully height adjustable at the touch of a button, meaning that the classroom is easily accessible for all children. As Sheila Bond says “Little tots can go in there and access the right size desk and PC; we can raise or lower the desks to suit the height and needs of the children, all the way through to the older age groups. The ICT suite is now fully accessible to everyone, and can be used comfortably for adult training.”



Thanks to our unique design, the masses of cables and huge grey boxes that previously dominated the learning space are hidden away and the ICT classroom now has 30 workstations rather than the previous 18, meaning no more sharing between pupils and a vibrant and practical learning environment. However it’s not only more aesthetic, it’s also a safer place to learn - as Sheila Bond observed “Because with (these desks) the mechanics of the PC are hidden away, the children can’t poke their fingers into all the bits and pieces”

The school’s staff have noticed the benefits of the new system for the children they teach; now every child can get a look-in and there’s no need to share. Sheila Bond says, “The children are always keen to get into the IT suite here...it’s now a fun thing...as well as a learning process” and states “To fully appreciate it, you have to see it in-situ.”

