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Early Excellence
Case Study

Delivering Excellence Together

Sharing Successful
School Improvement



**Harewood Primary
School's Nursery
Learning Environment
Redevelopment Project**

Contextual Information

Explore what the School Leaders wanted to achieve from their redeveloped learning environment

Harewood Primary School is in Thornaby, Teesside and has the community at its heart. It serves a diverse demographic including a high percentage of Pupil Premium and large percentage of EAL. The school is popular and well thought of by parents. It received a Good rating from Ofsted in June 2024, and joined the Lingfield Education Trust in September 2024.

There is a 39-place Nursery within the school. Many of the children who join the Nursery come from deprived backgrounds, and their levels of communication and language are often below expected levels on entry. The school places a strong focus on developing the prime areas of learning, particularly in communication and language.



✓ The Bespoke Plan

The aims for this investment were to:

- Transform the learning environment to better meet the needs of Nursery aged children
- Create a natural, purposeful and calm working atmosphere
- Support all areas of learning and the school's curriculum
- Include open-ended resources that nurture independence and facilitate development
- Offer an abundance of communication and language opportunities, which facilitate interaction and bring a richness of vocabulary
- Remove the constant need to change resources, allowing instead for purposeful enhancements
- Ensure investment in high-quality, durable furniture and resources that will last well into the future

Project Intent & Implementation

When Harewood Primary School joined the Lingfield Education Trust, EYFS Leader Ailsa Dinsdale, was tasked to drive forward a Nursery classroom redevelopment project. The EYFS Trust Lead had previously engaged with Early Excellence so recommended that Ailsa explored our Learning Environment Services – and Ailsa did just that!

Ailsa was coordinating with decorators and flooring contractors, so was keen to source a classroom environment solution that would minimise stress and workload, but deliver exceptional results in terms of quality and durability as well as achieving the project aims. Objectives included creating an age-appropriate learning environment that would bring a purposeful working atmosphere, offer meaningful contexts for learning and support the delivery of the EYFS statutory curriculum.

Initially, Ailsa used the website to explore the range of furniture, resources and storage available for 3-4-year-old children, but quickly decided to take advantage of the complete classroom solution service, knowing it would take care of everything!

I was delighted to meet Ailsa at a recent EYFS Roadshow event and to hear just how effortless the complete classroom solution process had been and about the impact of the investment for the children. It was a pleasure to meet the wider Nursery team on their onward journey of CPD and hear such enthusiasm about the new learning environment – some very happy customers indeed!

Best Wishes,

Sarah Carey

Sarah Carey
School Improvement Lead
Early Excellence



It's great to hear feedback from EYFS Leader, Ailsa, about the success & impact of the complete solution package for her Nursery!



Evaluating the Impact

Tell us about the ordering process – how was it?

“The ordering process was incredibly smooth and straightforward – we could order everything we needed in one go!

The complete solution was comprehensive, which saved us from spending hours sorting through individual resources and trying to piece everything together ourselves.

We were able to secure the delivery date we wanted. All the communications were prompt, the whole process was quick and efficient with no issues whatsoever.”

Tell us about the day of the delivery – how did it go?

“The entire delivery process was well organised, quick and completely stress-free!

There were proactive communications from Early Excellence about the delivery arrangements, so we knew what to expect, giving us clarity, reassurance and peace of mind.

Our site manager opened the school for the delivery and the Early Excellence team were professional and efficient in unloading and placing the items in the designated space so that everything was exactly where it needed to be for my team.”

What was the impact on Teaching and Learning?

“The impact on teaching and learning has been transformative and has significantly changed our approach for the better!

The environment is now fully supportive of our teaching and the curriculum. The children have meaningful learning experiences every day.

Having true Continuous Provision ensures that the resources in place support the children's learning effectively and our enhancements can be responsive to the children's interests and specific learning needs.”

“The impact of our new environment on teaching & learning has been outstanding! Early Excellence have done all the careful thinking to ensure that learning resources & furniture are suitable for nursery aged children and the curriculum”





"The low-level tables in the learning areas are incredibly effective, providing excellent opportunities for children to gather, use resources, & engage in conversation."

"The shelving units are the perfect height to clearly define the areas while still allowing staff to observe & support the children as they interact."



Our Children

"The children have absolutely thrived in their new learning environment! The resources engage them in a variety of ways that create fresh learning opportunities every day.

The children are calmer, more focused, show greater independence and there has been a notable decrease in challenging behaviour.

We've seen significant improvement in levels of communication and language, and the children are making positive progress in this priority area!"

Our Environment

"The impact on our environment has been profound. The neutral tones have created a calm, serene atmosphere...even the staff have remarked on feeling more relaxed in the new space.

The children no longer run around, instead they're focused and deeply absorbed in meaningful learning.

The environment is revitalised and welcoming. Our families are truly impressed by the transformation. We've even received new applications for enrolment!"

Our Adults

"The staff are exceptionally positive! They're really feeling the benefit of the redevelopment particularly in their reduced workload and the increased time with the children in provision.

The team have opportunities to step back and assess the children's progress, so their interactions are sharper in moving learning on. They are more able to see and support the CofEL and to consider purposeful enhancements.

We now have a clear vision for the future and we're all so inspired!"

Is strengthening EYFS or KS1 pedagogy your current priority?

Engage with expert consultancy & explore bespoke support today

To find out how Early Excellence can support your school development priorities in EYFS and KS1 or develop a bespoke package, take a look at our school improvement services online or get in touch with a member of our Senior Team today.

Contact our team on: 01422 311 314
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Discuss your priorities,
develop a strategic plan &
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