



**SOVEREIGN**  
Bringing imagination into play

## Case study

Crown Lane Primary School | Streatham | London



*“Sovereign is a solid reliable company to work with. They know what they are doing. The plans are drawn up and everything seems to work perfectly. They are also very flexible and offer good advice. The equipment is very robust and significantly enhances the facilities at the school.”*

**Neil Kelly, Facilities Manager, Crown Lane Primary School**



## Crown Lane Primary School Streatham | London

Sovereign Design Systems has helped a primary school in Streatham London by providing durable and robust outdoor facilities that sustains continual use by its 400 pupils.

### The issue:

Crown Lane Primary School in Streatham, London, is a new school which was constructed in 2005. When the school was built, the contractors laid down a tarmac playground and created a grassy area surrounding the playground. However, since then, the school has doubled its intake to 400 pupils, creating a demand for additional teaching and recreational areas. There were several other problems too. The ground conditions were either wet and muddy in the winter, or dusty and worn in the summer, with no shade or designated play/quiet areas for the children.



### The resolution:

Neil Kelley, the Facilities Manager at Crown Lane, quickly recognised that the school needed to invest in creating a series of designated outside teaching and play areas, which would overcome these problems and enhance the facilities at the school. Consequently, over a three year period, the school undertook an ambitious rolling program to create and install imaginative and functional areas that both the teachers and the pupils could make full use of, and which would be sustainable over future years.

### The process:

After talking to several companies, Neil Kelly chose to work with Sovereign and he, together with Tony Robinson, the Area Manager, set about putting the plans together to submit to the Premises Committee and the School Council. The process is continually on-going, as each year new ideas are proposed, planned and budgeted for and then come to fruition.

### The installation:

During the last three years the school has successfully installed a series of specialist play equipment (on both sides of the school), and has also established designated quiet/play/teaching areas which include the following:

#### 1. A Stage:

A gently sloping grass area at one side of the tarmac playground was transformed into a small elliptical stage. The grass was removed and replaced with a wet pour safety surface which edges up to the playground and allows for year round use. There is a deck area and benches with seating for up to twenty pupils. The children can use their imagination to the full in this popular area.

#### 2. Playground Graphics:

The playground was left open for the children to run around on and for PE lessons, but a number of colourful graphics have been burnt on to the tarmac to stimulate games activities for the pupils. The graphics include Targets, Hopscotch and a large 'What's the time Mr Wolf?'

#### 3. The Windsor Quiet Area:

Three natural timber pergolas with polycarbonate weatherproof roofs were installed on one side of the tarmac. The pergolas have several functions and benefits. They provide shade from the sun and wind, they are used as an outside teaching area and a quiet place for the children to sit and enjoy their packed lunches. They also provide an aesthetic quality to soften the stark tarmac area which is further enhanced by trellises and planting.

#### 4. Adventure Play Area:

Also situated near the playground is the Trim Trail, which includes: low level balancing beams, a swing bridge and a log traverse, plus the highly popular, eye-catching 'Rocky Mountain' traversing wall.

#### 5. Planters/Gardening Club:

Outside each classroom, Sovereign has installed large planters bordering onto the grass. Each classroom has its own little gardening area and there is a gardening club and a vegetable patch.

#### 6. Additional Enhancements:

- There are seven colourful wet pour areas situated around the school, which provide additional play space. These safe, weather resistant surfaces have the added benefit of keeping wear and tear to a minimum, thereby reducing maintenance costs.
- An available brick-faced wall on one side of the school lends itself to a bigger traversing wall for the older pupils.



### The benefits:

- The school has significantly expanded and enhanced the facilities at the school.
- The children are provided with protection from the elements and can make full use of the colourful and stimulating play equipment available to them.
- The teachers can take advantage of the outside teaching/quiet areas to provide non-classroom based learning.
- Significant cost savings have been achieved through providing low maintenance ground areas.

### Future developments:

During the summer, Sovereign will be installing visually appealing pencil shaped coloured fencing to section off an area of the playground which can be used in a number of ways: For supervision, as a special activity area, or simply as a boundary.

Plans are also being drawn up to install two large shade canopies outside the two Key Stage 1 reception classes in the autumn term. These will be waterproof UV protected umbrella canopies and will create a vibrant sheltered area against sunshine and rain.

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