



SOVEREIGN
Bringing imagination into play

Case study

Harrison Primary School | Fareham



"We were very impressed with the consultation service provided by Sovereign prior to having the playground equipment in place. They were extremely helpful and flexible and were keen to have the children's involvement from the outset. Thank you Sovereign for respecting our views and giving us ownership over our equipment."

Andy Harris, Site Manager, Harrison Primary School



Harrison Primary School, Fareham

The school, which is situated close to the centre of Fareham in Hampshire, was converted for primary school use in 1978, having originally been built as a secondary school in 1930.

The issue:

The existing play area was not being utilised by the children because it was old and uninspiring, providing extremely limited physical or mental stimulation. It was also not age-appropriate, having been designed with older children in mind.

The resolution:

Sovereign Play Equipment worked closely with the School Council, teaching staff and pupils during the consultation process to ensure that the correct solution was found, in terms of providing variety, stimulation and a safe play environment.

The process:

The contract was put out to tender by the school, with Sovereign one of three companies who quoted for the work. Sovereign visited the school on a number of occasions during the bid process to ensure that the quote put forward was as accurate as possible.

The installation:

Phase one:

The existing play equipment had to be removed and the area prepared for the new equipment. The old bark surfacing was also removed and replaced with a wetpour surface. Although an effective shock absorber, bark requires a significant amount of maintenance to keep it looking tidy as it 'travels' to surrounding areas, which in turn creates an additional cost as regular top-ups are required.

Phase two:

The area where the play equipment was to be installed was positioned on a number of different levels so in preparation the ground needed to be retained by wooden half round posts.

Phase three:

The children chose a range of equipment that will provide great play value over many years for the pupils of the school.

A swing board, which is shaped like a surf board, provides the opportunity to perfect balance. The new pirate ship is a great all-rounder, as it can be used as a social gathering space because of the seating inside it. In addition to the obvious physical exercise element, it also encourages the children to use their imaginations through role play.

Monkey bars are also providing a great deal of fun. As well as helping to develop upper body strength and co-ordination, they aid valuable social skills, as the children help one another across with shouts of encouragement.

A clatter bridge - which wobbles and 'clatters' when walked upon - also encourages imaginative play, with games like 'Pooh Sticks' and 'Billy Goats Gruff' proving popular. The log walk weaver helps to promote better balance and co-ordination skills.

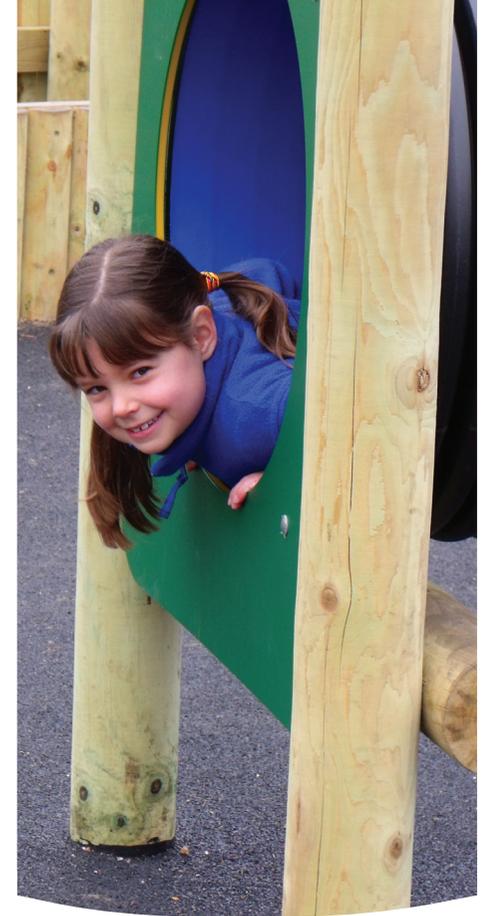
A poly tunnel was installed, which the children love crawling through or simply sitting in - it is also great for encouraging imaginative play, with no end of 'adventures' being embarked upon each play time.

The new play area was completed within one week, which included removal of the old equipment. During the construction, any amendments put forward by the school's Site Manager were taken on board and implemented where possible.

Another school has since commissioned Sovereign for an installation having visited the completed play area at Harrison Primary School.

The benefits:

- The school now has an age-appropriate play area, offering variety and stimulation
- The new equipment promotes physical, mental and social development and opportunity for a great deal of fun
- The design presents a variety of challenges for pupils and encourages them to take risks, in a safe environment



- The new play equipment is durable and requires minimal maintenance
- The play area has provided a much needed outlet for physical energy, leading to calmer behaviour within the classroom environment.

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