



SOVEREIGN

Bringing imagination into play

Case study

Howells School | Llandaff | Cardiff



"The School is committed to offering the very best educational experience to our students and this playground with its outdoor classroom and theatre area adds to this excellent provision."

Mrs Sally Davis, Principal, Howells School



Before



After

Howells School, Llandaff, Cardiff

Howells School is a vibrant independent school for girls offering nursery, junior and senior education and a co-educational sixth form (Howells College). The school prides itself on the provision of a rich and stimulating learning environment, and makes maximum use of its indoor and outdoor space to inspire its pupils and awaken their enthusiasm.

The issue:

The school required total re-landscaping of the Junior School play area, which had become run-down. The brief was to create a new, imaginative play area that would turn two separate play areas into one fluid space.

The resolution:

Four playground providers submitted bids for the work, but it was Sovereign's quirky design and attention to detail that won the contract.

The process:

Sovereign used the feedback from the children and staff during the initial consultation period in order to develop the winning design.

As the school places a tremendous emphasis on developing the self-identity, self-confidence and self-esteem of its pupils through a wide range of artistic, dramatic and musical productions, the new area includes an outdoor classroom and a stage on which the girls can do role-play exercise to help them develop their confidence, creativity and social skills.

The installation:

Phase one:

Sovereign re-landscaped the play area and used any soil that was removed to create mounds for play and seating – ultimately giving fluidity between spaces that would allow the children to use the area as one great big play/learning space.

Phase two:

Following the re-landscaping work, Sovereign created a range of zones, including an outdoor theatre and applied a variety of surfaces according to the use of each area.

This included artificial grass, bonded mulch, wetpour, bonded gravel, tarmac and fencing, as well as a new multi-use games area for football/tennis on wetpour.

Phase three:

Sovereign installed a range of play equipment including a Jumbo Jungle Climber and Thumper Tower.



Planting areas with raised beds were included in the design so that pupils could learn more about nature first hand.

According to Howell's School Principal, Mrs Sally Davies, the new playground has 'enhanced the girls' wellbeing as well as developing their problem-solving and creative skills'.

The summer-long project was completed within a very tight timeframe. The new play area was officially opened on 19th September, and parents and other well-wishers helped the Junior School celebrate its new outdoor environment.

The benefits:

- The children are enjoying a more stimulating outdoor environment, which is more in-keeping with the school's energetic and creative teaching ethos
- Sovereign has provided the school with an additional outdoor performance area

for the wide range of artistic, dramatic and musical productions it stages throughout the year

- Teachers now have additional external teaching resources, including a nature garden and outdoor classroom
- New play equipment is providing a safe outlet for the pupils' natural exuberance
- Additional shelter is now available for more inclement weather.

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