



SOVEREIGN

Bringing imagination into play

Case study

Pelsall Village Primary School | Pelsall | Walsall



"We were very impressed with the service provided by Sovereign. When we received the plans it was clear that our brief had been fully implemented. The 3D drawings allowed us to visualise the finished product. The children and staff were extremely excited and could not wait to explore the new learning possibilities that this well built, inclusive playground would offer. Thank you Sovereign for a job well done."

Mrs Clark, Head Teacher, Pelsall Village Primary School



Pelsall Village Primary School Pelsall, Walsall

Pelsall Village School is the oldest school in Pelsall and many aspects of the building are reminiscent of previous times. Outside there are extensive grounds, play areas and a beautiful nature garden, which all enhance the learning experience.

The issue:

The school required an inclusive play area for its nursery and reception pupils. It was important that all pupils would be able to move from one zone to another with ease and that the play area would be useable all year round.

The school had a set budget which it needed to utilise to its fullest.

The process:

The school invited three companies to bid for the contract. Upon consideration of the submitted plans, the school selected Sovereign because they felt Area Manager Julie Pearce had listened to the brief and correctly interpreted their needs, including giving due consideration to the Early Years Foundation Stage framework parameters.

All work was carried out over a one week period.

The installation:

The design offers great fluidity between spaces and almost tells a story with paths moving children from one zone to another.

Phase one:

Other than the initial consultation and design period there was no other preparatory work to undertake due to the lack of any existing play equipment. This meant that Sovereign was able to enter the installation stage very quickly.

Phase two:

Sovereign installed a range of play equipment including 'The Brig', which is based on a ship design and incorporates wooden platforms at different levels, a slide, a log climber, a rock climber, log ramp and gang plank.

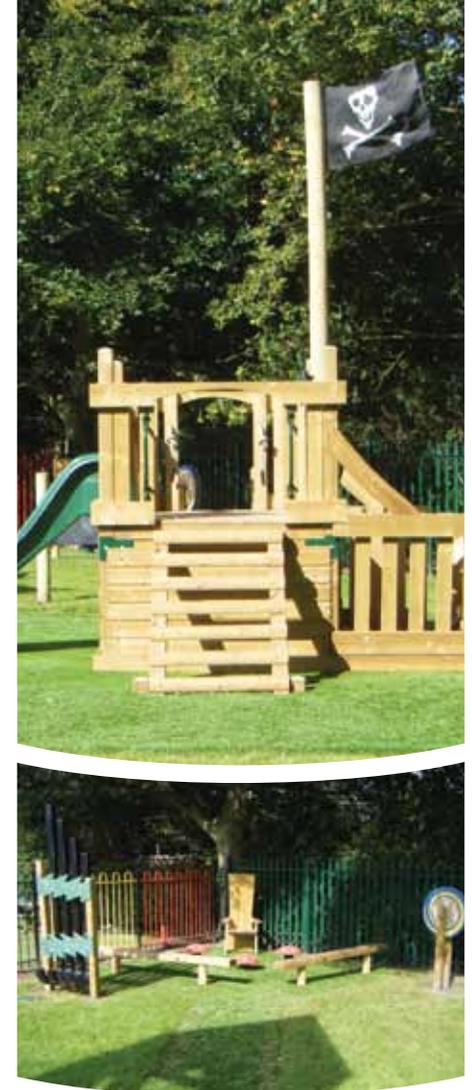
Other equipment installed included a Foxtail Adventure Tower with a 1000mm high deck, which is accessed via a gently sloping rock climbing ramp. The tower incorporates a slide and provides plenty of scope for imaginative and challenging play for younger and older children alike.

Other areas newly incorporated include a storytelling area, musical play, sensory play panels and a Play Lodge, which gives the children the opportunity to explore imaginative play. It comes complete with machine-rounded posts and half rounded cladding, with three walls and roof supports. The Apex roof on the Play Lodge is constructed using overlapping featheredge timber, helping to provide both shade and shelter. It can be used for seating or shelter, or can house a range of toys that children can use for role-play.

Sovereign also incorporated Windsor artificial grass all weather surfacing in the play areas and the pathways between the zones to allow for all-year round, safe access.

The benefits:

- The children are enjoying a more stimulating outdoor environment, which is helping them to explore both structured and free play
- The new play area is purpose-built and inclusive so can be enjoyed all year round by pupils of different ages and physical abilities
- The design supports the Early Years Foundation Stage framework parameters
- The play area is helping to encourage social interaction and enabling the children to further develop key mental and physical skills.



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