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June 2017

## ISLAND IN THE STREAM

London City Island's 104 social housing apartments are taking advantage of HIU prepayment systems



### A dynamic building

Ogden Centre cements Durham University's position as a leading institute

### In clear sight

How well-thought-out designs can benefit the visually impaired

### Sustainable is favourable

MMU specifies highly sustainable lighting system for Birley Fields Campus



# INVITING, COST-EFFECTIVE SPACES

Cheetham CofE Community Academy is a larger-than-average-sized primary school, with 540 students aged three to 11. Working closely with the school, refurbishment consultancy firm, Whitespace Consultants, was briefed to transform the blank space of a new building into an inspiring, modern interior – all with the help of KI's Postura+ chair.

**B**ased in the North West and with over 20 years' experience in the office and school refurbishment industry, Whitespace Consultants provides a range of services and products, from interior design and space planning right through to the supply and installation of standard and bespoke furniture.

Working closely with the client, Whitespace Consultants' brief was to create a modern, inspiring interior – one in which the students would enjoy learning. The consultancy firm was asked to design and furnish the new-build school; which provides a reception area, support offices, six classrooms, resources areas

and a large practical room. Designing and furnishing each classroom with the same footprint, whilst remaining flexible was key to the success of the project. Bespoke pieces of furniture alongside standard desks and seating truly optimise the space available. Storage tray units and student lockers help to keep the space free from clutter.

Other spaces throughout the school were designed and furnished so that they can be quickly and easily reconfigured to accommodate different teaching styles when required; this included wave desks for IT use, mobile tables and stackable chairs alongside a soft seating area

for informal study. Whitespace Consultants' extensive knowledge in the education sector meant that it could provide high-quality interior design and furniture to meet the school's needs and budget.

Amongst Whitespace Consultants' furniture specification was KI's Postura+ chair. Designed to promote good posture and provide exceptional comfort, the Postura+ chair is manufactured in the UK and complies with BS EN 1729 Parts 1 and 2 for dimensions, strength and stability. Conveniently for school environments, it can be stacked to 12-high for transport and storage. Durable, stain-resistant and 100% recyclable, these chairs come in a range of vibrant colours and can be upholstered for added comfort and aesthetics.

As the facility was a new-build, Whitespace Consultants had the luxury of working with a blank canvas and the consultant paid particular attention to offering the school inviting, cost-effective, functional spaces with aesthetic appeal.

The school, in collaboration with Whitespace Consultants'

design team, was instrumental in choosing the complementary colour scheme. The school wanted to move away from the primary colours of blues, greens and reds often used in education and opted for a more sophisticated palette of grey, green, plum and black; which delivers a 'grown-up' feel to the visually-stimulating learning spaces.

Wendy Corrigan, Marketing Manager for Whitespace Consultants, commented: "We are finding that schools and colleges are looking for bright, inspiring and multi-functional spaces that are able to accommodate a variety of teaching styles.

"Due to the rising number of students, schools want to optimise every bit of space, which in some instances means utilising what was once unused space, such as corridors, and turning them into additional learning zones. With regards to the furniture, comfort and flexibility are key, ensuring teachers can switch between different teaching styles, individual and group work with minimum disruption."



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