



St Stephen's Primary Church School, Bath

A fresh, new library space where children can relax and engage in reading for pleasure.

Summary

Whilst the previous library was functional and loved by the pupils, it wasn't the inspiring, inviting reading space Headteacher, Claire Taylor, wanted for their school community.

Due to its size, only small groups could visit at any one time and there wasn't enough shelving to accommodate

"From beginning to end BookSpace helped turn our vision into a reality."

Claire Taylor - Headteacher

the school's growing book collection. As a result, the school decided to relocate the library to a larger space near the main reception with the aim to bring it up-to-date with modern library furniture, flexible seating, cosy reading corners and more book capacity.

Finding BookSpace

Teacher, Nicola Renwick, spent time researching various library design companies online and came across BookSpace's free library design service. "We loved the website. It was easy to navigate and access information. We explored the case studies, testimonials, library designs and furniture. We chose three companies and invited them to visit the school and discuss the project" explains Nicola.

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Objectives

The main objective for the new space was to achieve a welcoming, relaxing environment where children could develop a love of reading. The library needed to have a fresh, contemporary feel with zones for relaxed reading and group work as well as plenty of shelving to display the books.

How BookSpace helped

BookSpace designer, Michelle Tomlinson, visited St Stephen's to discuss the project in more detail and carry out a full site survey to ensure everything would fit perfectly. After the initial design consultation, Michelle

"This welcoming and inclusive environment has heightened our love and appreciation of reading!"

Claire Taylor - Headteacher

created three different designs with itemised costings.

"From beginning to end BookSpace helped turn our vision into a reality. Something we were particularly impressed by was how carefully they listened to our design brief and were able to achieve that within our budget" says Claire.

A fresh and modern yet relaxing colour scheme was chosen for the library. The combination of fixed wall shelving alongside free-standing furniture and curved bookcases helped to create different areas for children to explore and relax with a book.



'Wow' factor

To add the 'wow' factor, Michelle wanted to add a statement piece which would bring excitement to the reading experience but not make it feel like a playground. The school chose one of the designs

with a unique Study House and striking Feature Wall. As a final touch, graphics were added to the Feature Wall in recognition of the school's four core values of Love, Courage, Creativity and Joy.

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The result

The library installation took place in May 2022 and included new flooring. The carpet design was included in the visuals, making it easier for the school to envisage how the flooring and furniture would look together. Our designers work closely with a flooring specialist who carry out their own detailed site survey and handle the removal and disposal of any existing flooring where necessary.

Since the new library opened, staff have noticed a real buzz around reading and children really look forward to their visits.

“The new space has generated a further love of reading and pupils are excited to discover lots of new books. The space can now accommodate a whole class and children enjoy spending time together talking about their book choices” says Nicola.



“The governors at St Stephen’s are delighted with the completed school library. It’s clear the library will help to foster a real love of reading in our children as well as providing an inspiring and peaceful environment for learning for many years to come.”

- Governors

“There is usually quite a buzz in the room, where the children share what they’ve found or as they pass on their recommendations. My class love the new space and describe it as, bigger, better, brighter, and more comfortable than the old library.”

- Class Teacher

**At BookSpace we love helping to design reading spaces no matter how large or small.
Contact our friendly team on 0121 246 2777 to find out more.**