



Rosecliffe Spencer Academy, Nottingham

Creating a library that showcases how valued reading is within the school.

Summary

Rosecliffe Spencer Academy in Nottingham celebrated World Book Day in March 2021 by opening its new library, giving both staff and pupils the opportunity to share their love of books and reading.

"We want reading to be at the centre of everything we do. To give the children somewhere that shows how valued reading is within our school community."

Kirstie Mann - Teacher

The vision

As a brand-new school, Headteacher, Mrs Chandhoke wanted to create a library that would instil a strong reading culture in the school for years to come. Working closely with teacher, Kirstie Mann, they both shared a similar vision for the new school and their library.

How the school approached designing their library

Being a new build school, the library was a blank canvas which enabled staff to start from scratch, discuss exactly what they wanted and shape their dream library. To begin with, they started off thinking about the physical space which comprised two separate rooms adjacent to one another. Although this seemed like a challenge at first, they decided to use this to create different zones within the space.

The brief was two-fold, it needed to work for all ages in the primary school, from nursery to year 6 and readers of all abilities. It also needed to meet the needs and interests of the children. Creating a child-centred space that put a focus on reading was extremely important.

"We decided the library needed to be really special and not just a room with some shelves with books on. It needed to be an inviting place to go and choose books. It needed to be all about reading."



Finding a library design specialist

With their ideas in place, the school set about looking online for library furniture companies that specialised in creating primary school libraries. At BookSpace, we have years of experience working directly with primary schools and specialise in designing beautiful reading spaces. We have access to the latest software, allowing our skilled designers to create stunning 3D visuals and layouts so you can visualise exactly how your library will look in reality. You can find lots of examples of our work in our online library design gallery, click [here](#) to see more.

"As soon as I saw the gallery images on the website, I knew BookSpace were the right company for us!"

Kirstie Mann - Teacher

The design process

BookSpace were asked to create three different design layouts, each one taking a slightly different approach to the space and the two zones:

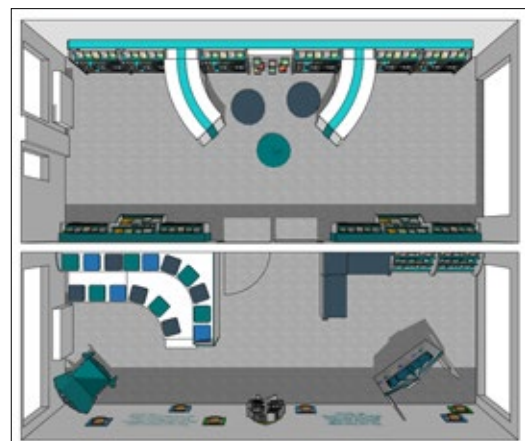
1. Separate fiction and non-fiction areas.



2. Separate areas for KS1 and KS2.



3. A shared reading space with amphitheatre style seating/KS1 books and separate KS2 zone with curved shelving.



BookSpace

For each project, the BookSpace design team supplies a range of high-quality layout options along with a fully-itemised quotation and detailed book capacity. What's more, the designs are presented on moodboards with fabric and laminate samples so customers can see the colour options and quality for themselves. Over the years, we've been told how useful these boards are for showing governors, PTA, parents, student council and to support fund-raising initiatives.

"Having different design options was a huge benefit" says Kirstie. "When we received the boards, we were able to show colleagues and mix and match elements from different options."

In the final design, the smaller space featured a cosy reading area with our Storytelling Chair, designed to create a focal point for storytime, at one end and the KS1 shelving at the other. The more open plan space was used for KS2 with curved bookcases and plenty of display book shelves.

The Result

"The library installation was a simple process and I was amazed at how quick and efficient it was!"

Following the fit-out, it was Kirstie's job over the next few weeks to stock the shelves with books and get everything ready for the launch.

"I'm really pleased with the quality. I've been putting

"The children absolutely love the space, especially the hideyhole and storytelling chair!"

Kirstie Mann - Teacher

books away, moving shelves and can see the furniture is really well built. The library signage has been particularly useful to help children find their way around"

To give every child the opportunity to access books and reading, every class now has a morning or afternoon dedicated to visiting the library, giving them plenty of time to browse the books, explore new genres and make recommendations to their peers. In addition, staff have also set up an after-school library club and appointed librarians from Year 5 to give some responsibility and ownership to the children.

Staff are also getting involved and working hard to promote a love of reading across the school. Teachers at Rosecliffe Spencer Academy are using the Me-to-You board in the library to share their own reading experiences and recommendations. This has proven an effective way to get children talking about books and encourages them to share their own experiences, thoughts and emotions.

"We want reading to be at the centre of everything we do"

At BookSpace, we have a range of special reading features like the Me-to-You board, all designed to generate a conversation around reading in a fun and positive way. Find out more click [here](#).



**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.**