

Safespaces[®] in schools in Scotland



Safespaces have been fitted in mainstream and ASN schools all over the UK including many schools in Scotland.

The Safespace provides a completely soft and robust 3-dimensional space – a room within a room. They are custom made and can be made to fit a room or put in the corner of a large classroom.

They have proved an invaluable resource for schools dealing with a range of students, especially for those with additional support needs including autism, epilepsy, SIB and challenging behaviours.

'They are extremely flexible spaces and will always be well used as they can be so many different things to different children.'

The Safespace can promote inclusion and be used for children with or without special needs for sensory space, relaxation, play or one-to-one time. In a residential setting they provide safe sleeping space for those with needs relating to safety and sleep. (They are used as such in private homes all over the UK and internationally.)

Installation involves no structural alteration to a room and the Safespace can be moved within school as needs for space change, maintaining flexibility and reducing the costs and disruption of a full room conversion.

Quotes above are from Scottish schools, see overleaf for details.

www.safespaces.co.uk

'The Safespace has been a real asset to our school.'

'Being in a Safespace helps the child to relax, reduce their anxiety and promotes a feeling of safety.'

'To date it has been hugely successful; the child has a safe area to calm down in... and staff members are protected also.'



CRAIGHILL PRIMARY, INVERNESS

Craighill has had their Safespace for a number of years. Head, Duncan Mackay:

'We are a large open-plan mainstream school. Our Safespace is used for both a chill out area for sensory breaks with lights and toys and as a calming down area.

It is primarily used for one individual with severe autism. It is detailed in the behaviour protocol as the most suitable place for the child to go when they are getting physical and needing a safe soft area to calm down. It has helped to keep both the child and staff safe.

It has been a real asset to our school.'

OCHIL TOWER RESIDENTIAL ASN SCHOOL, PERTSHIRE

Ochil Tower have had more than 10 Safespaces over the last 10 years! They use them for night time and day time use. Margaret Snellgrove:

'After just one night in a Safespace Johnny had the first night of unbroken sleep since birth, for the previous 11 years he had slept a maximum of 20 minutes at a time.

Safespaces cut out many sensory impressions that otherwise overwhelm and arouse our pupils. Being in a Safespace helps the child to relax, reduce their anxiety and promotes a feeling of safety.

For one of our pupils the Safespace is one of the few places he is actually safe at night. The Safespace means that he is unable to access any plugs, radiators or other objects that he might use inappropriately. This has meant that he now sleeps between 8 to 9 hours a night and no longer engages in risky daytime behaviour.

For some of our pupils who engage in Self Injurious Behaviour the Safespace provides a truly safe space. They would otherwise use walls, doors, the floor or cupboards for self-injury which has the added aspect of providing sensory feedback. The Safespace limits any sensory feedback as well as preventing any harm to the pupil so this quickly promotes a de-escalation in SIB and keeps both the pupil and staff safe.

We have had our staff as well as members of my family sleep in Safespaces and all have enjoyed it saying that it provides a lovely cosy sleeping environment.'

HIGH SCHOOL, HIGHLANDS

Gayle Jappy, Support for Learning Team:

'In our school the Safespace has been used for one individual child, this was put in place as an area to calm down in and control and minimise violent outbursts. A strategy for use was put in place by our members of staff and the Autism Outreach Teacher. To date, this has been hugely successful; the child has a safe area to calm down in... and staff members are protected also. We are also able to use the Safespace as a calm and soothing area for use with the other children to read stories or just relax in.'

MILE END PRIMARY, ABERDEEN

Mile End has 2 Safespaces. Head, Eleanor Sheppard:

'We use the Safespaces for a number of purposes, it very much depends on the needs of the children. Some children have used them for child initiated time out which helps them to regulate their own behaviours, some for a sensory experience with resources added to meet needs, some as a calming space which can offer a private space if upset and some as a space to undertake one to one work.

The Safespaces have been extremely helpful in supporting individual needs in a private way and help meet all of the needs highlighted above. The children enjoy the spaces, view them positively and will frequently use our Safespace symbol to indicate that they would like to access one of the spaces.

They are extremely flexible spaces and will always be well used as they can be so many different things to different children.'

Safespaces equipment has been purchased for schools and individuals by Scottish local and education authorities Aberdeen, Angus, Argyll & Bute, Dumfries & Galloway, Dundee, East Lothian, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Fife, Glasgow, Highlands, Midlothian, North Ayrshire, Perth & Kinross, Renfrewshire, Scottish Borders, South Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire, West Lothian, Outer Hebrides and Shetland.

There are schools in Scotland with Safespaces who would be happy for you to visit them by arrangement. Please contact Safespaces for details or any further information.

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