



# Safespaces in Schools



**Supporting** Every  
Pupil's Potential



Over 1.7 million pupils (19.6%) in England have Special Educational Needs (SEN)\*

\*Department for Education (DfE), Special educational needs in England. Published: 12 June 2025 - Gov.uk



## Meeting the Needs of Every Pupil

Nearly one in five students in England receive support for special educational needs (SEN) in the classroom, according to government statistics\*. With this number increasing year on year, schools are seeking adaptable and effective solutions to support all learners. For pupils who experience anxiety, sensory overload, or behavioural difficulties, the Safespace provides a safe, flexible, and supportive environment for pupils. It is particularly suitable for individuals with complex needs, in supporting their neurodiversity and learning difficulties.

### What a Safespace offers:

- **Custom design and fit:** Each Safespace is made to suit the available space and includes a wide range of design features tailored to the needs of the school.
- **Safety and comfort:** The soft PVC walls and foam flooring reduce the risk of injury from hard surfaces and objects.
- **Low-stimulation environment:** Helps pupils regulate emotions and reduce anxiety.
- **Adaptable sensory space:** Can be configured as low or high sensory, ideal for therapy, play, or one-to-one sessions.

“There are pupils in the room that sometimes need to be physically supported when they’re dysregulated. That’s dramatically changed now we have the Safespaces as pupils can opt to go into that space when they’re feeling dysregulated, which is really helping them.”

Leanne, Teacher at The Chiltern School.

## Creating Inclusive Classrooms

The Safespace enables pupils to remain part of the classroom environment, promoting a sense of belonging while providing a private space for regulation.

- Pupils can choose to enter the Safespace when dysregulated, reducing the need for exclusion to other spaces.
- Remaining within the classroom minimises feelings of isolation and maintains peer interaction.
- Supports continuity of learning, enabling pupils to rejoin the lesson once ready.

### Impact on schools

- Reduces classroom disruption during periods of dysregulation.
- Provides teachers with a practical tool for managing diverse needs.
- Encourages inclusive learning without compromising safety or well-being.



“The Safespace provides an opportunity for all young children to ensure that their needs are met within the classroom. Whether that be communication, regulation, sensory, a physical need, it can be met directly at the moment that they need it, so they continue to be engaged in the learning, and it doesn't disrupt the progress that they then make.”

Lisa Leanord, Head Teacher  
at The Chiltern School.



## A Versatile Alternative

Unlike fixed room padding, the Safespace offers flexibility and safety:

- **Relocation** – Can be moved between classrooms to support pupils throughout their school years.
- **Complete coverage** – All surfaces are flexing and soft, reducing hazards from uncovered fixtures such as doorknobs or windows.
- **Adaptability** – Incorporate windows, access points, and sensory features to integrate seamlessly into existing classrooms.
- **Maximise space within the classroom** – Unlike room padding, which requires a dedicated space, the Safespace supports inclusion directly within the learning environment.



## Benefits at a Glance

### For pupils:

- **Safety:** Padded floors and flexible walls reduce the risk of injury.
- **Sensory support:** Adaptable for calming retreats or stimulating sensory play.
- **Behavioural support:** Provides a self-regulation space to reduce crisis situations and exclusion.
- **Skill development:** Encourages pupils to recognise and manage their own emotions.



### For schools:

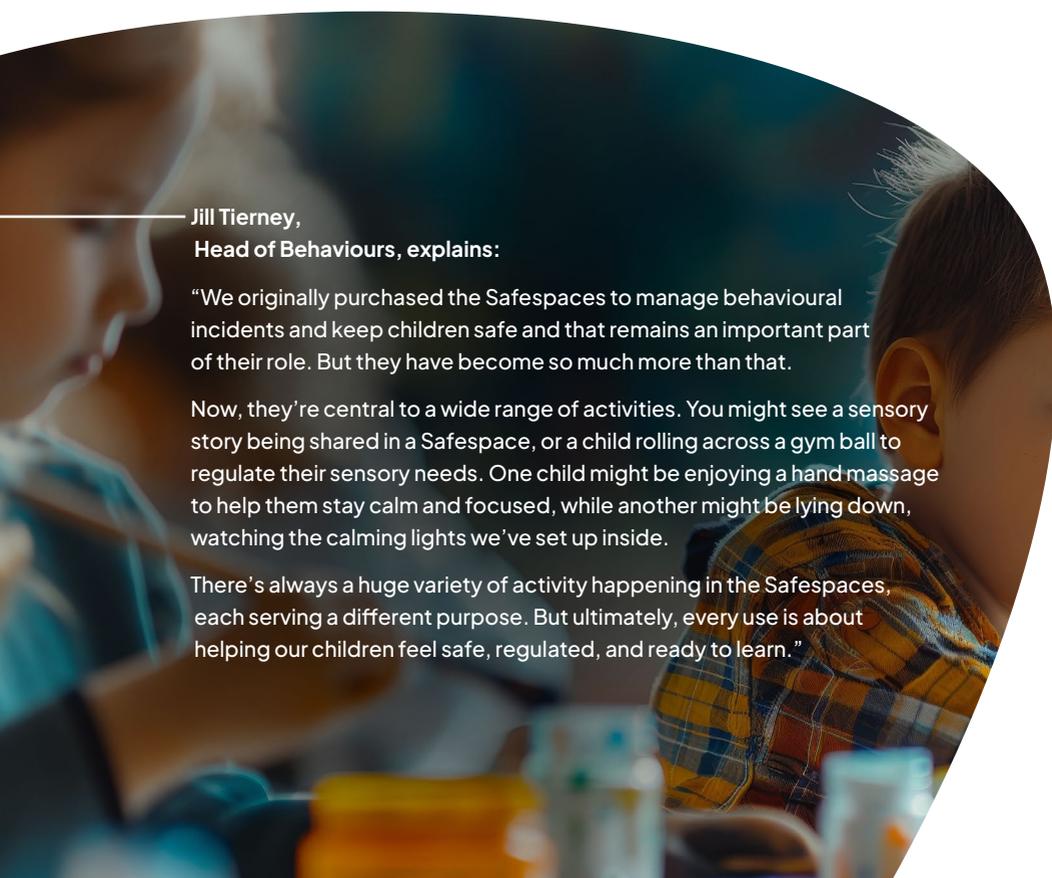
- **Cost-effective:** Adaptable design supports long-term use as pupils needs change over time.
- **Inclusion-focused:** Pupils remain in the classroom, supporting equal access to the curriculum.
- **Reduced disruption:** Provides a safe retreat, maintaining a focus in the classroom.
- **Improved attendance:** Supports pupils with complex needs, helping address higher absence rates.



## Millwood Primary Special School: Safespaces in Action

When Millwood Primary Special School in Bury moved into their new building, the leadership team were determined to design an environment that would truly meet the needs of their pupils, many of whom are neurodivergent or have complex learning needs.

As part of this vision, they installed five Safespaces within classrooms. Initially introduced to support pupils during times of dysregulation, the Safespaces have since become an integral part of daily school life.



Jill Tierney,  
Head of Behaviours, explains:

“We originally purchased the Safespaces to manage behavioural incidents and keep children safe and that remains an important part of their role. But they have become so much more than that.

Now, they’re central to a wide range of activities. You might see a sensory story being shared in a Safespace, or a child rolling across a gym ball to regulate their sensory needs. One child might be enjoying a hand massage to help them stay calm and focused, while another might be lying down, watching the calming lights we’ve set up inside.

There’s always a huge variety of activity happening in the Safespaces, each serving a different purpose. But ultimately, every use is about helping our children feel safe, regulated, and ready to learn.”

“Having a Safespace gives teachers far more options. It just means our children can be ready to learn for longer periods of time, by means that they’ve chosen themselves. They are an integral part of our classrooms and they are a fantastic resource for our children.”

## A life-changing difference

For one pupil, the Safespace proved transformational.

“We had one pupil who would regularly go into crisis and sometimes needed to be held up to three times a day to keep himself safe. Since having access to the Safespace, we’ve been able to teach him to recognise the changes in his body when he starts to feel anxious — for example, noticing when his heart rate increases.

This self-awareness has helped him feel more in control. Now he’ll say, ‘I’m going in the Safespace,’ and take himself there. He often asks someone to go with him because he’s now calm and confident enough to explain what’s happening. The progress has been massive.”

### The impact

At Millwood Primary Special School, Safespaces are now regarded as an essential classroom resource:

- Pupils are calmer, more confident and better able to learn.
- Staff have more options to support children positively.
- The need for restraint and seclusion has been reduced significantly.

Watch the full case study video on our website. [www.safespaces.co.uk](http://www.safespaces.co.uk)

## Our Team and Process

From design to installation, our specialist team supports you at every stage:

- Understanding your school's unique requirements
- Designing your custom-made Safespace
- Installing your Safespace with care and expertise
- Providing ongoing maintenance and guidance

### Training, resources, and support

We provide access to our online resource hub, which includes fact sheets, best-practice guidance, and expert advice.

In addition, we deliver CPD-accredited webinars to help your staff build confidence in using the Safespace effectively.

Safespaces is proud to offer wraparound support, ensuring your Safespace continues to meet the needs of your pupils long after installation.

### Take the Next Step

Discover how the Safespace can transform your classroom. Contact our team today for a consultation.

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