



The Learning Zone

Lee Evans Partnership champions inclusive design 06/05/09

Lee Evans partnership worked closely with Kent County Council's Property Group on the new Hythe Bay C of E Primary School, a project which is recognised as an exemplary illustration of DDA implementation. It also demonstrates just what can be achieved when the British Standards BS 8300, the code of practice for the design of new buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people, are interpreted with flair and imagination.

The result of an amalgamation of the former Hythe St Leonard's Junior School and Hythe Community School, the new school is located on the former Community School site and existing buildings have been developed and extended. Around 50 per cent of the newly established two-form entry single storey primary school is now new-build. The project team took a proactive approach to BS 8300 and were determined to create a school which could be used throughout by both disabled and non disabled students. In the first instance the scheme was discussed in detail with Kent County Council's Access Officer to identify potential problems and to ensure these problems were resolved during the initial project stages. As many manufacturers still fail to meet the requirements demanded by the DDA, the team carried out extensive research to ensure that the correct building components were sourced. Features include new lighting with the correct lux levels and a frequency which will not interfere with hearing aids, and acoustically, classrooms with hearing enhancement systems (sound field system), as well as ceilings treated to assist reverberation. This acoustical approach aids the class as a whole and has been found to improve overall learning outcomes. In addition Lee Evans Partnership designed a new two-storey youth club. The school is now one of the few in the UK to have a purpose built facility like this on campus.

For further details contact:

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