



CLIENT: KENSINGTON PREP SCHOOL
PROJECT VALUE: £60,000
PROJECT TIME FRAME: 3 MONTHS

EXPLORING THE FUTURE AT KENSINGTON PREP

As an award-winning independent prep school rated 'exceptional' at its most recent Independent Schools Inspectorate inspection, Kensington Prep prides itself on its innovative teaching and excellent academic results. The school recently unveiled its ground-breaking new learning facilities as part of its £2.7 million 'Creating Spaces for Growing Minds' building project. A key part of this was the Explore Floor interactive, multipurpose learning space.

PROJECT BRIEF

Kensington Prep wanted to create a space designed to support and encourage independent exploration, self-directed learning and collaborative work. They wanted to utilise a variety of technology to create a flexible, future proofed space that was simple enough to be used by everyone, across all age groups and subjects.

Key features essential to the design included the need for multi-screen, multi-touch technology to allow students to collaborate and work in small groups; the ability to utilise projection in a number



We're delighted with the final outcome of the project and we've also been very, very pleased that CDEC have been part of that journey. From the outset CDEC helped us with our designs and helped find the technology to ensure it suits our vision and is a perfect complement for the school's teaching. We feel that CDEC worked hard to overcome many of the challenges that we faced, particularly with the integration of all the various types of technology.

GARETH ATKINSON, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS



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The Explore Floor and the technology in this room is amazing in that it really sets the girls thinking and challenges their thinking. We're seeing this all the time in the way they collaborate and the way they risk take and it allows the lines of enquiry to dig deeper.

CLAIRE RAINES, DEPUTY HEAD

of ways including on to the floor so classes could sit down and use the technology in a three-dimensional way; and the need for radio and television facilities in a separate multimedia studio featuring professional mixers, microphones, headphones and more.

A whole host of technology was integrated into the room including 55in and 70in Promethean ActivPanels, fully connected interactive displays that provide tablet-like functionality for the classroom, and an NEC PA522U Full HD projector for the floor projection.

All technology in the room, including blinds and lighting, is controlled via iPad, ensuring teachers had an easy-to-use and recognisable control interface. This was central to the brief to ensure strong take up of the room. Since completion a room booking system has been introduced for the Explore Floor as it has proved so popular with teachers.

PROJECT DETAILS

Kensington Prep wanted to create an innovative space with a wide variety of leading-edge technology; the idea being that while technology will inevitably develop and change in the next five years, students will leave Kensington Prep feeling comfortable applying their knowledge of one specific aspect of technology to another, potentially one that they've not even come across yet.

From the moment students walk into the room they interact with technology, scanning a QR code by the door which allows them to access the information they need for the lesson on their iPads. Touch is also a key feature of the room and the 4 55in and 2 70in Promethean ActivPanel screens are all multi-touch allowing students to research and share ideas easily. To assist with this, CDEC enabled multiplexing across the screens, so if a student is working on one screen it can be shared to all. Similarly, in group working, the project can come to the student rather than people having to move around, reducing disruption in the class and saving time.

The floor projection, along with the ability to control windows, blinds and lighting at the touch of a button, means it is incredibly easy to create an immersive, atmospheric learning experience for students focused around the central projection. They can be introduced to the theme of the lesson here before moving into groups to research topics further independently.

Although it is integrated within the Explore Floor, the studio is still its own identifiable isolated space where students can carry out independent work while being observed by the teacher through the glass. The technology in the studio creates something that many other schools don't have and the opportunities it affords have been integrated within lesson plans. For example, when students carry out independent



research in the Explore Floor, they can take this further to investigate a topic and present it on air, rather than just in front of their class, giving them the professional experiences of being a journalist or a news presenter.

PROJECT CHALLENGES

As the Explore Floor is a unique project and nothing like it existed at the time of installation the biggest challenge was working out what was possible and how, especially as there were no examples to look at. As the Explore Floor involved more than just AV kit, it was also important that CDEC understood the IT elements of the project and could integrate their design with the building specifications.

One specific problem that was solved by CDEC was that the floor projection system initially didn't have a PC attached to it, limiting the content that could be projected. The CDEC team was able to amend the specs and came up with a solution that was actually an enhancement of the original design.