

Inclusion

Case Study: Improving Behaviour / The Octagon

Improving standards of behaviour is vital for an effective teaching and learning environment. On BSF our approach has been to work to reduce the number of exclusions by providing schools with flexible spaces for individual pupil and group support. Creating these spaces enables schools to tackle challenging behaviour. These spaces can be seen throughout our BSF schools where there are new spaces for children with BESD (Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties), allowing teachers and students the environment to address these issues in a timely and discreet manner.

The new look **Octagon** should be seen in this context and with the knowledge that all our schools are now better equipped to tackle behavioural challenges – through improved circulation, better social spaces, and more personalised learning.

The modernisation of The Octagon represents a great opportunity to seek to engage those young people that will still need support outside of the mainstream system or their 'home' school. All this is supported by a design that provides practical ways of helping staff to manage behaviour. This includes rooms for counselling, and multi-therapy room; vastly improved circulation routes that allow good supervision, calming finishes, colours and materials, and good acoustics.



The building provides a suitable balance between accessibility and security, and feels spacious and welcoming. The opportunities for poor behaviour are reduced by the design of the building. What really underpins all this is the first class teaching and support given to the young people. Teachers are now able to offer students' access to outstanding ICT, including the multi-PC internet café style space. As well as this, the outdoor areas are much improved and particularly popular with students.