



St. Mary's

Primary School

Swindon

Edition 2

Wiltshire





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Why St. Mary's chose VS.

An interview with St. Mary's headteacher Ian Tucker on why VS was the perfect choice for their exceptional new school design and build.

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Ian Tucker is headteacher of St. Mary's Primary School in Purton, Swindon, based in the South West of England. VS worked closely with Ian to provide furniture solutions that would compliment the exceptional build standards of the school, at the same time delivering flexible learning opportunities that exceeded initial expectations.



VS – So, tell us about St. Mary's?

Ian – I'm really very proud of our new school. The build standards are extremely high and I'd like to think that St. Mary's stands among the best designed schools in the South West, if not the whole of England. Myself and my colleagues fought tenaciously to acquire the funding needed to build such an ambitious project, but I'm delighted to say, it really has paid off.

VS – What makes the school so special?

Ian – Aside from the high build standards, it's the buzz the new school has as a result of the wonderful design and architectural features, both inside and out. The pupils are genuinely passionate about it and very proud of the way the building looks. They also love to interact with the equally impressive furniture supplied by VS, which compliments the school beautifully. They've not experienced anything like it and I have to say VS is a quantum leap ahead of the competition, in my view. Together, all these factors contribute to providing us a learning environment that's truly unique and innovative by UK standards.

VS – How did you acquire investment for the new school?

Ian – We were extremely fortunate! St. Mary's was built under the Primary Capital Programme (PCP), which, sadly, no longer exists. In fact, we managed to secure investment under the PCP scheme one week prior to the government changing educational legislation and closing it down! Once funding was approved, the architect for the project was commissioned and the design and build took around 18 months to complete. Again, I cannot stress how lucky we were to secure funding when we did – it's made a world of difference to me, my colleagues and of course, the pupils.

VS – What were the deciding factors in choosing VS furniture over the competition?

Ian – I felt because it was a such an innovative new school, with outstanding excellence in its design and build, the furniture we select should also reflect this. Attitudes to education in the UK are changing, with more emphasis on flexible learning – a large part of which is realised through interaction with the classroom furniture. We really wanted a solution that stood over and above the usual, generic standards.

I think what really impressed me with VS was the extensive research and data the company had produced to support the products. The level of attainment and achievement acquired through application and testing had a real academic feel to it – compared to the other companies we looked at. VS gave us the confidence that we were choosing the best solution and now we have the furniture throughout the school, there's absolutely no doubt the right decision was made.



VS – Thank you Ian, we're delighted to hear that. Could you give us a brief appraisal of some of the furniture you've used?

Ian – Of course. Myself and my colleagues are truly sold on the benefits of VS furniture and we're now firm advocates. We've not previously been in a position to experience the level of flexibility VS furniture provides and the pupils have taken to it so well too. I particularly love the Hokki stool, which in honesty, I was initially unsure of. It's just such a simple, but innovative concept. Pupils fidgeting on seats during lessons has always been frowned upon traditionally. The very idea that a product actually encourages movement with such a positive effect on concentration levels – without distraction – is just brilliant.

The triangular tables have also proven invaluable, certainly a lot more than we initially anticipated. They can be so easily and quickly reconfigured to suit differentiated learning across a multitude of subjects. The pupils are very hands-on with classroom configuration too and I'm delighted they're taking such an active interest in the way they learn using the VS furniture.

VS – If you could give school furniture advice to other heads, what would it be?

Ian – Take the time to research and carefully consider the furniture for your school. Don't make decisions based solely on price or tradition and make certain you're buying solutions – not just individual products from various companies that won't necessarily pair together well to support flexible learning. I can almost guarantee, once you've experienced how well a solution-based range of products works in a classroom environment, you won't go back. As said, I would happily advocate VS furniture and welcome anyone who would like to visit St. Mary's to see first-hand, just how effective it is.



Flexible Learning.

VS manufacture highly ergonomic educational furniture, designed to provide schools with superior products that exceed expectations and meet the demand for more flexible learning.

2^d

Creating truly flexible learning environments is a vital consideration for modern learning cultures within schools. As a comprehensive educational furniture supplier, VS provide ergonomic product solutions that enable multiple configuration and adjustment options to do just that. Desks can tessellate in a number of ways to suit learning styles and varied subject teaching. Classroom chairs are specifically designed to encourage natural movement and adapt to individual body types and sizes, effectively 'growing' with the pupil as they develop physically.

By seamlessly integrating ergonomics, adaptable furniture, layout and room function, VS products allow learning environments to be highly flexible, yet remain structured and coordinated. This is an important interaction for pupils of all ages to promote well-being and bolster academic success.



Ergonomics, heights and sizes.

Correct ergonomic sitting can only be achieved when a pupil's chair allows for adjustment to suit their individual height. Within each academic year, heights for similar, or same-age pupils can vary considerably. As subject teaching changes from classroom to classroom, the furniture – particularly seating – should allow pupils to remain comfortable and focused throughout the day.

In the **DIN EN 1729** standard, body height and seat/table height has been carefully correlated to determine six generic sizes that cater for various age-ranges throughout schools. This serves as a good starting point, but ideally, each pupil within any specific age-range should have access to chairs and tables that can be quickly adjusted to suit his or her own individual height.



56,5-82 cm

Model 31505
37-45 cm
Model 31506
45-56 cm

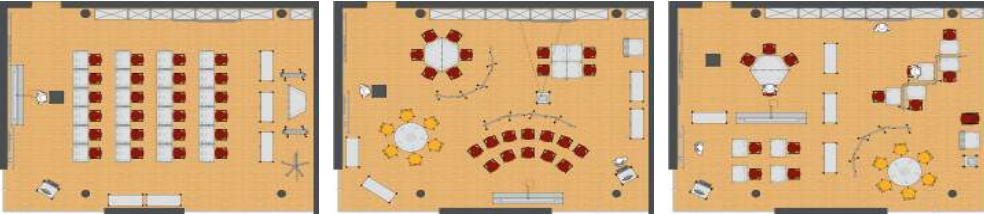
Let them fidget and move.

Fidgeting is a natural urge for most pupils during prolonged periods of sitting, yet most traditional school furniture is very rigid in design, severely restricting movement. Not only does this cause discomfort whilst learning, but it has proven to be a serious distraction that inhibits concentration. This not only has a direct impact on academic attainment, it is also detrimental to physical well-being.

VS chairs, particularly the **PantoSwing** and **PantoMove**, were designed to overcome physical restrictions as much as possible and encourage pupils to move more naturally whilst seated. By incorporating features such as ergonomically shaped 'air cushioned' seat shells, built in under-seat rocking mechanisms and cantilevered frames that shift the centre of gravity, maximum comfort and controlled natural movement is achieved. These factors allow pupils to focus on learning in a positive, healthy way – both for the mind and body.

Configuration options for flexible learning.

It is important that schools provide learning environments to support a variety of activities – from everyday classroom studies, to small or large group learning, team workshops and phases of quiet revision and recreational down-time. This means incorporating robust, adaptable furniture, designed to be configured and tessellated in multiple ways – quickly and efficiently. VS approach product design with maximum flexibility and durability in mind, providing furniture solutions that work together to facilitate flexible learning and support differentiated teaching practices.



A few diagrams illustrating configuration options for teacher-focused lessons, group study and revision sessions.

If you´d like more information, please contact your dealer or distributor for a copy of our product catalogue.

Flexible Learning.

VS worked closely with St. Mary's to provide flexible product solutions that best suited the structural and interior design of the new school.

2^b

The following pages show the range of products proposed by VS and selected by St. Mary's throughout the school. Headteacher Ian Tucker best summarises the VS approach to ergonomics and flexible learning in this quote from a recent interview (see section 1). "I think what really impressed me with VS was the extensive research and data the company had produced to support the products. The level of attainment and achievement acquired through application and testing had a real academic feel to it - compared to the other companies we looked at. VS gave us the confidence that we were choosing the best solution and now we have the furniture throughout the school, there's absolutely no doubt the right decision was made."



PantoSwing-LuPo

PantoSwing-LuPo

The PantoSwing-LuPo is our most popular classroom chair. The double-skinned plastic shell is designed to provide air-cushioned support and added comfort. The controlled tension of the cantilever frame design allows for a gentle rocking motion, aiding concentration during study periods by enabling the body to move naturally, with far less restriction than conventional classroom chairs. The seat shell is available in 6 vibrant colours, also with an attractive beech plywood option.





Compass-LuPo

The **Compass-LuPo** is a highly popular 4-legged classroom chair, but can also be used in other areas such as the dining or assembly hall, art room or ICT suite. The double-skinned plastic shell is designed to provide air-cushioned support and added comfort. The seat shell is available in 6 vibrant colours, also with an attractive beech plywood option.



LuPoStool

**LuPoStool**

The **LuPoStool** is our best selling stool and can be used in almost any learning environment. The double-skinned plastic shell is designed to provide air-cushioned support and added comfort and is available with or without back rests in 3 different size options. The unique U-shaped skid base frame is designed to alleviate pressure marks on flooring by evenly distributing the loading weight – particularly useful on wooden and linoleum floor areas.





Hokki

The **Hokki** is a truly innovative type of stool that can be used in almost any learning environment. The unique ergonomic design encourages pupils to move and 'rock' in any direction, providing a stark contrast to traditional seating that often restricts natural movement and inhibits concentration during periods of study. The **Hokki** positively encourages elementary, playful interaction and helps promote a healthier body and mind connection, boosting academic attainment – as well as making learning experiences a lot more fun!



TriTable

The **TriTable** is an ideal choice for flexible classrooms. Due to its ergonomic triangular shape, it can be used either as a stand-alone table or grouped together in many different ways to form a multitude of configurations. The single central leg castor allows for easy movement within the classroom and they're easily stackable too, making them suitable for smaller learning spaces, as well as more open learning environments. The **TriTable** is available in three table top sizes and a choice of colours for the frame and tops.



LiteTable



LiteTable

The **LiteTable** is super-light and extremely strong, due to an aluminium frame and can be used within any classroom or group area. The optional castors can also provide quick, easy movement and they're easily stackable too, making them suitable for smaller learning spaces, as well as more open learning environments. The **LiteTable** is available in a variety of shapes and sizes and a choice of colours for the frame and tops.



Puzzle

The rounded shape of the **Puzzle** provides an ergonomic, visually stimulating option, particularly suited to very young learners. The soft, curved lines of the table can be grouped together in a multitude of configurations, creating less angular, more natural shapes throughout the learning environment. This provides a fun, highly flexible challenge and interaction – the lack of hard corners also ensures a safer option for over-active pupils! Available in 6 table heights and a choice of colours for the frame and tops.





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TeamTable

TeamTable

The **TeamTable** is an ideal choice for open areas where a number of teachers and colleagues can congregate for coffee, or for a more casual get together or meeting. Designed with standing in mind, as opposed to sitting, the soft, curved lines of the **TeamTable** can be grouped together in a multitude of configurations and is fitted with an under-shelf for IT equipment or general storage. Available in 2 heights and a choice of colours for the frame and tops.





RondoLift-KF

RondoLift-KF

The **RondoLift-KF** table is an ideal choice for flexible learning environments, where the necessity of a fixed-position, frontal teaching desk is no longer relevant. The leg castors and gas-sprung central column provide a highly ergonomic 'touch' station that can be situated anywhere within the classroom during lessons time. Easy adjustment of the central column also allows for sitting or standing, providing the perfect solution for a variety of subject teaching. Available in a variety of shapes and sizes, the **RondoLift** can be supplied with an optional drawer for IT equipment or general storage. Also available in a choice of colours for the frame and tops.



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Serie 2000



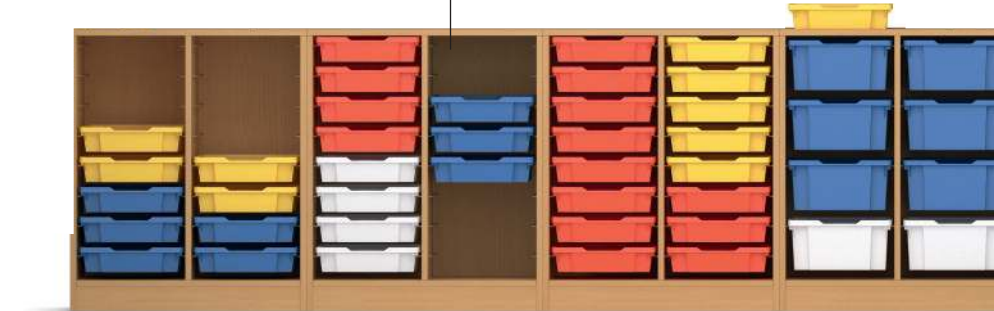
Serie 2000 folding screens

The Product **Serie 2000** folding screens provide an ideal solution for dividing available room space, especially within a larger classroom or open learning area. Ideal for role-play activities or quiet, secluded study. Available in a number of different finishes and colours to suit your environment. Panels can be acoustic, transparent, melamine or pin-able and can be configured as a single screen, 2/3 part or 4/5 part. A range of 'hang-on' accessories are also available.





Serie 800



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Serie 800

The **Serie 800** is a complete storage solution, comprising mobile or floor-standing units to suit all classrooms or learning environments. Cabinets are manufactured from melamine-resin-coated **LIGNOpal** chipboard and are available in a variety of finishes, sizes and configuration options to suit specific requirements. Supplied with durable Grathells plastic tray inserts.



Serie 600

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Serie 600

The **Serie 600** solution is an ideal choice for mobile storage. The framework is manufactured from strong tubular steel with heavy-duty castors, a solid steel base and perforated steel panels, providing a high degree of durability and flexibility suitable for all classrooms and learning environments. Available in a variety of colours and size and options to suit specific requirements. Supplied with durable Grannells plastic tray inserts.





ClubLounge



ClubLounge

The **ClubLounge** soft-seating solution is an ideal choice for any breakout or reception area and is available as a stool, an easy-chair, two-seater sofa or corner sofa. All of the seating options can be combined to create comfortable, highly attractive configurations to suit any size room or available space. Upholstered/manufactured in embossed, durable man-made fiber, the **ClubLounge** can be supplied in a variety of different colours.



Serie Lounge



Serie Lounge

The **Serie Lounge** seating solution is an ideal choice for any reception area and staff room and is available as a stool, bench, armchair, sofa and chaise lounge. All of the seating options can be combined to create comfortable, highly attractive configurations to suit any size room or available space. Upholstered/manufactured in embossed, durable man-made fiber, Serie Lounge can be supplied in a variety of different colours.



The Third Teacher.

The Third Teacher book is an invaluable resource for anyone looking to embark on designing a flexible learning environment.

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The Third Teacher is the result of a learning experience that began when three companies joined forces on an unprecedented project – researching and collating stories from educational thought leaders and learning communities who sought to redesign the traditional thinking behind the creation of learning environments. Cannon Design's expertise in K-12 education architecture, VS America's trailblazing work with ergonomic furniture solutions, and Bruce Mau Design's unrivalled ability to capture and communicate positive innovation, combined to create this comprehensive and insightful book of ideas and inspirations that help build a better understanding of flexible learning opportunities within modern educational environments.

If you'd like a copy of The Third Teacher, please contact your dealer or distributor.



The Company.

Founded in 1898 in Tauberbischofsheim, Germany, VS has since grown to become one of the largest international designers, manufactures and suppliers of ergonomic educational furniture.

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VS design and manufacture superior educational furniture, providing schools and teaching institutes with a wide range of products that are innovative in design, ergonomic in function and highly durable for long-life in service. VS adhere to the core principles that better, more ergonomic furniture makes for better learners and improves academic attainment – a philosophy underpinned by the desire to create more flexible learning environments by offering multiple classroom reconfiguration options throughout many product ranges.

Founded in 1898 in Germany as a family owned organisation, VS is an established brand and has since expanded to a work-force of over 1.000 staff, with a full manufacturing plant, global export division and technical training centre – positioning VS as one of the major international market suppliers of ergonomic educational furniture, as well as a leading advocate for flexible learning.



VS furniture bears the GS symbol – the official certificate for safety-testing in accordance with German directives. Furniture is manufactured to the highest specifications, using the very best materials and is subjected to vigorous material and load tests – ensuring unimpaired functionality and long-life ideal for the modern demands of the learning environment.



UN Global Compact.

VS is an active member of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC). The aim of the UNGC is to promote, through the power of joint action, the involvement of companies to address the issues associated with corporate social responsibility and globalisation. Established in 2000 by the former UN General Secretary Kofi Annan, the UNGC now has over 8000 company members from all the world's regions.

With our commitment to the UNGC, we adhere to the established catalogue of ten principles within the field of human rights, including social standards, environmental climate protection and anti-corruption. We promote and support adherence to all the established principles and implement them by concrete action through our company activities and practices.

The company annual report "Communication on Progress" (COP) illustrates in more detail our efforts and commitment to support the goals and principles of the Global Compact.



Reliability and responsibility.

VS operate internal business activities to the very highest standards, adhering to an on-going program of independent testing, quality control, health and safety and environmental responsibility. Details of operational procedures and standards are outlined in our quality assurance handbook, such as faithfulness to deadlines, service quality and customer satisfaction.

VS has established a process-orientated quality-management system based on the new standard DIN EN ISO 9001:2008, ensuring all internal business activities are consistently focused on absolute quality assurance. VS continually optimise and improve design and manufacturing techniques, faithfulness to deadlines, general service quality and customer satisfaction – by reviewing, refining and restructuring our processes on an on-going basis.

Environmental.

VS furniture is not only satisfies the highest quality, durability and ergonomic requirements for flexibility, but also takes into account environment-related considerations through the company's manufacturing processes.

Conserving natural resources is an important consideration and acts as our guiding principle throughout the entire product development cycle. From incoming raw materials, through to processing and manufacture, right up to the delivery of the furniture to the customer. Our claim is to address ecological issues associated with all stages of product development – including recycling wherever possible.

In order to ensure this comprehensively, we have established an environment-management system according to DIN EN ISO 14001:2009 in our management structure and in all operative processes. Through this internationally recognised standard and regular neutral inspection, VS monitor and record potential instances of ecological damage – continuously improving company environmental practices based on the assessment of facts obtained.

VS

www.vs-moebel.de | www.vs-furniture.com

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