

Laboratory case study

Brine Leas School Cheshire

Contractor | Innova Design solutions
Timescale | 3 weeks
Architect | Innova Design Solutions



Brine Leas School in Nantwich has swapped its dark, outdated science laboratories for modern, dynamic learning spaces. As a result of a partnership with Innova Design Solutions, the science department has been transformed into a 21st century learning environment.



Brief

With buildings dating from the late 1950s, the school sought to make major changes to its classrooms to create a fresh, positive teaching and learning environment for staff and students to enjoy. Brine Lea's aspiration was to transform the labs by optimising the available space, maximising storage and above all creating safe, modern laboratories designed to enhance learning.

The challenge for Innova was to create modern and dynamic laboratories, ensuring the new facilities were in keeping with Brine Leas' vision to build a unified science department.

Working in partnership with the school throughout design and planning process, Innova provided a full turnkey solution to transform the science labs into contemporary educational spaces.

“ The design team showed great attention to detail and communicated well, in order that we received the correct design for our needs. ”

Kate Bradshaw, Business Manager



Carcase		Manufactured from 18mm MF MDF	Seating		Ergonomic stools
Worktops		Trespa	Handles		Zinc alloy inset handles
Edging		ABS Colour matched edging	Hinge		240° pivot safety hinges



“ We are now very proud of our new labs. ”

Kate Bradshaw, Business Manager



Solution

As flexible layouts were a key requirement for Brine Leas, Innova focused on clever space planning and design, installing Flexi-Pods which allowed students to work in groups and tables to be re-configured around fixed service pods. Perimeter benching, complete with additional service outlets, enabled the labs to accommodate a maximum of 34 students.

With space at a premium, storage was another important factor in the Brine Leas re-development. Open shelving for books and bags as well as concealed storage to hold equipment was integrated seamlessly into the classroom design, allowing surfaces to be kept clean and clutter free.

In keeping with modern teaching methods and following Innova’s design ethos of shortening lines of communication between the teacher and students in order to enhance concentration and aid learning, a large demo bench with additional space to seat students was created to provide the teacher with the perfect platform to deliver lessons and practical experiments.

Hardwearing, durable Trespa work-surfaces were used throughout to ensure the labs will serve students and teachers well into the future.