



DECADES OF TEENAGERS STAMPEDING FEET HAD TAKEN THEIR TOLL ON THE BUSY RECEPTION AREA AT KING ETHELBERT SCHOOL, BIRCHINGTON, KENT.

Parquet floors, slamming doors and a liberal dash of the school's corporate colour (purple) might have been the order of the day in 1970 - but not in 2006.

Albion Office Interiors came in with a host of ideas to revive the main foyer – bearing in mind that first impressions count.

The project had to be completed during the six-week summer holiday, so **aoi** moved swiftly forward, solving the school's obvious problems – and a few others they encountered on the way.

Health and Safety requirements were paramount - all work had to comply with the latest DDA legislation. Hinges, locks, bolts and other door furniture are to the highest specification and a voice-controlled intercom ensures any unwarranted visitors are kept at bay.

CASE STUDY

King Ethelbert School



Tired and well-worn external timber doors were replaced with modern automatic entrance doors while internal doors were removed to create a much more spacious feel to the whole area.

Attention to detail – a hallmark of **aoi** installations – means the automatic door mechanism includes a variable time delay, to accommodate the changing seasons, thus reducing the risk of winter blasts blowing in!

The school did have a ramp for disabled access - but too short to comply with new DDA legislation. **aoi** installed a gently sloping ramp, with new handrails and slip resistant surface to blend in seamlessly with the new entrance arrangement.

Smart, hard-wearing carpet tiles were used to cover the noisy, parquet floors, while attractive suspended ceilings and a new modern lighting scheme added to the overall feeling of comfort and warmth.

Parents, prospective parents and visitors to the school are thrilled with the modular reception desk - purpose-built by **aoi's** own systems furniture manufacturer – “it’s so much nicer to see a friendly face behind a gently curving desk than to find someone peering out from behind a glass hatch!” says Roger Saffery, Business Manager at King Ethelbert School.

Finally, all services for the new desk had to be routed through a duct installed in the floor and a Hearing Induction Loop was then incorporated into the desk itself. Other finishing touches include an attractive eye-catching spotlight feature, which can be angled to highlight exhibitions or works of art, and repainting of radiators to blend in with the new décor.

King Ethelbert’s School, Birchington, Kent is just one of many public sector projects undertaken by **aoi**.

THE SCHOOL’S VERDICT?

“The reception area reflects the image we want to convey – smart, professional and bang up to date! The best summer’s work we have ever done.”



All **aoi** projects incorporate full Health & Safety documentation, design, management supervision and waste clearing upon completion.

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