

# Staff Friendly Schools



When designing a new school building or teaching block, what needs to be considered when thinking about staff as well as pupils? Marketing Manager from Modulek, Carly Toogood, provides some insights.

I was fortunate enough at the end of last year to attend a presentation by David Baker who was speaking at the Westminster Education forum. I'm sure some of you will be familiar with his work as he also speaks at many educational conferences.

The topic of this presentation was 'Staff Friendly Schools, A Next Step for School Building'.

He talked with passion and empathy for all staff within an educational setting and how a school is not just a place for pupils to thrive and learn but also how it is a work environment for its staff to thrive.

When we consider designing a new school building or a new teaching block, equal consideration should

be given to the spaces needed for our staff as well as the needs of the pupils.

With recruitment and retention an ongoing issue within the education sector, it was interesting to hear his research on what staff need from their working environment and what will enable them to flourish and perform to the best of their abilities as guardians of our pupils education.

The correlation between staff wellbeing, recruitment and retention and pupil attainment was a key focal point.

The physical environment in which your staff work has a direct impact on their wellbeing which aids retention and assists with the recruitment of staff, in order that

the best levels of pupil attainment can be achieved.

Areas that were discussed in this presentation were: Personal Workspace, Staff Sanctuaries, Dining Facilities and Toilet / Shower Facilities. Investing into a work environment provides added value and shows commitment to not only professional personal development but the overall health and wellbeing of staff. This leads to increased moral and higher job satisfaction.

At Modulek, we believe that when a building is designed, every aspect of its purpose is carefully considered and discussed. It is one of the reasons why we take the time to listen, understand and implement latest research, incorporating this into our design methodologies.

The initial consultation before a space is designed is critical to achieving a successful build. We actively encourage discussion between stakeholders', teams and individuals to drill down and identify what your new building means to all parties. From this point we are then able to guide you as to how this can be achieved through innovative design, floorplan orientation and clever use of space.

Our design team are experienced at taking multiple considerations and providing you with solutions that work across all levels. Our directive is to understand your project and provide not only a beautifully designed building, but a working environment that facilitates a positive and healthy culture for your staff.

If you are at this stage with a new educational building project contact us today 01202 813121 or visit our website for more information [www.modulek.co.uk](http://www.modulek.co.uk)