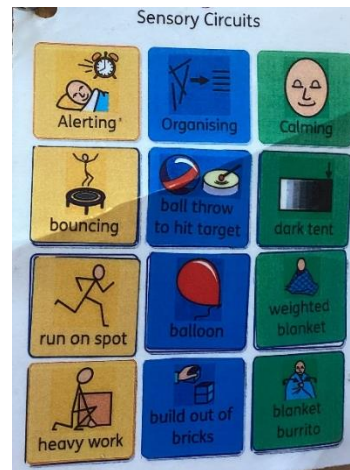


Creating Calm



How Donnington Wood C of E Junior School Embraced Sensory Support

When Donnington Wood C of E Junior School discovered the powerful impact of sensory experiences through visits to PODs Sensory Room, it sparked a school-wide mission. With the support of pupils, staff, and parents, the school launched a successful fundraising campaign to create its own sensory spaces—transforming emotional wellbeing and self-regulation for its children.



Calming.	Organising and Alerting Activities for children to choose from for their sensory circuit movement breaks.	Individual sensory circuit card for a child - these are chosen by the children themselves after trying them all out.
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In the academic year 2023/24, Donnington Wood C of E Junior School embarked on a transformative journey to support the sensory and emotional wellbeing of its pupils. Through weekly visits to PODs Sensory Room, children, staff, and parents alike experienced firsthand the profound benefits of sensory integration.

These visits offered children the opportunity to explore tactile, visual, and auditory stimuli, helping them become more attuned to their sensory needs. The impact was clear: improved mood regulation, enhanced emotional wellbeing, and a noticeable difference in classroom engagement. Parents, too, gained valuable insights, taking home ideas to create supportive sensory experiences in their own environments. Teachers observed the positive changes and were inspired to bring these benefits into the school setting.

Motivated by these outcomes, the school community rallied together to fundraise for their very own sensory room. Pupil voice played a central role—children shared which equipment they

found most helpful, and a wish list was created. The first major event was a summer fair, partially student-led. From designing posters to running stalls, the children took ownership of the initiative, raising enough funds to kickstart the project.

By the autumn term, the school had installed key sensory items including blackout curtains, a ball pit, a sensory tent, light cubes, glow rollers, and a trampette. The momentum continued into the autumn term with a festive Christmas Fair, which helped fund additional equipment such as fibre optic lights and sensory circuit tools. These additions enabled children to engage in calming, organising, and alerting activities during movement breaks.

The results have been remarkable. With access to tailored sensory resources, children are now better equipped to self-regulate, and instances of dysregulation have become both less frequent and shorter in duration.

Donnington Wood C of E Junior School's commitment to sensory wellbeing is a shining example of how community effort, pupil involvement, and a shared vision can create lasting, meaningful change.

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SENCO - Donnington Wood C of E Junior School