



PRESS RELEASE

Are you Sitting Comfortably?

An exploration of design at the chalkface

12 October 2013 – 1 June 2014

Are you Sitting Comfortably? is an exhibition exploring some of the effects of environment and design on teaching and learning from the formality of the Victorian classroom to the outdoors self-directed learning of a wood school. Opening at the V&A Museum of Childhood on 12 October it runs until 1 June 2014.



How much does the context in which we learn affect how we learn? It is taken for granted that the built environment impacts on people and yet many of the classrooms that children are taught in are not very conducive to a positive learning experience.

In recent years much consideration has been given to how school design can affect pupil wellbeing and performance in the UK. The apparent correlation between an effective learning space and attainment suggests that good design or a stimulating context has the potential to have an extremely beneficial effect on the way children learn.

In collaboration with Cazenove Architects, specialists in educational design and the University of East London, the Museum has set a series of design challenges. Pupils from Gayhurst Primary and Clapton Girls' Academy, Hackney, have worked on developing furniture design solutions. Architecture students from UEL have designed a willow structure for Paupers Wood School, Manchester. A choir from St Paul's Way Trust School, Tower Hamlets, has developed a calming acoustic installation with musicians Jason Sigh and Laura Howe.

The exhibition also features examples of school furniture from the Museum's collection, contemporary furniture by school suppliers and samples of school design by Cazenove Architects. Plus a film by the Paupers Wood School.

V&A Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 9PA

Admission free. Open daily: 10.00 – 17.45, last admission 17.30

Nearest tube: Bethnal Green. Tel: 020 8983 5200 www.museumofchildhood.org.uk