

# MODERN MEASURES FOR MAKING MORE ROOM EGUIDE

Features five  
practical outdoor  
classroom ideas for schools



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# Schools' 21st century space problems...

Space is incredibly precious for schools these days. Average class sizes are steadily rising, as resources and budgets are becoming increasingly squeezed.

Extensions and new buildings may sound like the obvious option. However, they come at a cost and can be time-consuming, with some projects requiring planning permission before work can begin.

As a result, schools are becoming extremely resourceful in how they go about finding the space they need. Whether it's classroom, meeting, study or dining space they need, schools are setting their sights on getting much more from their space. And they're becoming more creative in how they view and use it in their quest to make their existing facilities work even harder for them.

This guide shows you some of the modern measures schools are taking right now to make more room, we hope you find it useful.



# How schools are responding to the issue

We've worked with literally thousands of schools across the UK over the years and, in our experience, when it comes to finding more space, one of the first things schools are doing is taking a step back and re-evaluating what they've already got.

In some circumstances, this involves them taking some bold, but highly effective steps towards solving their lack of space dilemma. While we may have mainly been called upon to create walkways or provide entrance shelters in the past, requirements within the education industry really have changed in recent years.

Schools are becoming increasingly aware of how outdoor canopies can provide them with more than just a way to protect students and staff from the elements at break times or as they walk across the courtyard as they make their way to and from classes.

Lots of schools are now viewing outdoor canopies as the solution to helping them overcome the on-going challenge of creating more space from what they've already got. On the next few pages, we've mapped out five practical examples of outdoor classroom ideas for schools and explained the benefits of each option.



## PRACTICAL EXAMPLE 1

## CLASSROOM AREAS

**Contrary to popular belief, canopy systems aren't a quick fix, temporary solution.**

Today's industry-leading canopies can provide protection from the wind, rain and UV rays. Some models, like our hugely-popular Cantabria, can even feature retractable roofs that are operated by a remote or smart device, sliding glass doors, integrated guttering and heating.

Many educational settings, such as Sir Stanley Matthews School in Stoke-on-Trent, are seeing canopies as being much more of a viable and cost effective way of creating additional classrooms, rather than going down the extension and building work route.



## PRACTICAL EXAMPLE 2

## STUDY HUBS



**Large classroom sizes can lead to communal areas being constantly busy, making it difficult for students to find somewhere quiet to sit and/or study without being interrupted.**

It's a challenge that Wellington School in Timperley found themselves facing and one that they overcame with our help. We installed a canopy that provided them with a protected outdoor study area. Students now have an additional place where they can study in the great outdoors come wind, rain or shine.

## PRACTICAL EXAMPLE 3

## OUTDOOR LEARNING



Another way in which schools are getting around the challenge of having no space is by getting maximum use from their outdoor areas that are often underused and overlooked.

Take Frampton Cotterell Primary School in Bristol, for example. They wanted a canopy that would enable them to create a learning environment where teachers could take the classroom outside. The school now has a sheltered space where pupils can learn, play and socialise in all weather conditions.



## PRACTICAL EXAMPLE 4

## BREAK OUT ZONES



As well as providing students with a place where they can study and learn all year round, schools are also using outdoor canopies as a way of providing students with somewhere they can go to between classes.

It's what Helston Community College decided to do when they wanted to free up congestion inside their buildings – they provided students with an outdoor covered area. There was no other outside space that was covered on-site, so installing a canopy enabled them to put their outdoor area to better use, create more space indoors and provide students with a sheltered courtyard area they can use during break times and free periods.





Dining halls are full to bursting in most schools, with many students struggling to find somewhere to sit down and queues often ending up outside.

This was a common situation at Winstanley College and one they overcame by installing our Cantabria canopy, which is hugely popular with the education and hospitality sectors. Now that it's in place, the college's catering provider, Caterlink, is serving more students, and the students have a light, bright area where they can eat and study, regardless of what the weather's doing.

They can sit with the sun shining down on them and on greyer, wintry days, they can still use the area because the roof of the Cantabria can be closed at the touch of a button.

What's more, if the mercury really does start to rise, the Cantabria protects students from the sun's harmful rays.

Then there's the sliding glass screens. They can be easily opened and closed, depending on the weather, while LED lighting and electric heating mean the space can be used when it's light or dark, or if it's cold outside.



# About Canopies UK

Canopies UK is the country's leading designer, manufacturer and installer of high quality canopies.

Established for more than 25 years, the company employs over 50 staff at its Lancashire headquarters, which incorporates offices, production space and warehousing.

Serving a multitude of sectors, including hospitality, education, healthcare and construction, Canopies UK delivers excellence through site-specific specification and unrivalled product quality.

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[www.canopiesuk.co.uk](http://www.canopiesuk.co.uk)

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We hope this guide has provided you with some useful insight and inspiration for how you can get more from your existing space.

For more outdoor classroom ideas for schools or to find out more about creating a classroom area, study hub, outdoor learning or break out zone, just like the schools we've featured above have done, contact us on:

Email [info@canopiesuk.co.uk](mailto:info@canopiesuk.co.uk)

Visit [www.canopiesuk.co.uk](http://www.canopiesuk.co.uk)

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