

CASE STUDY

EUROLOGIK IS TOP OF CLASS



CLIENT: BRITPLAS

PROJECT: BRADSHAW COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Green Guide A-rated Rapidvent windows from Britplas, fabricated using the Eurocell Eurologik profile system, have transformed the learning environment at Bradshaw Community Primary School in Cheshire.

Issues with maintenance, rotting frames and jamming sashes on existing single glazed timber windows had prompted the school to seek advice from locally-based Britplas.

After listening to the head teacher's other concerns about maintenance, safety and lack of ventilation in the classroom, Britplas proposed its Rapidvent windows.

Rapidvent was invented by Kevin Gorman, Chairman of Britplas, in conjunction with Ian Kernaghan, Product Design Manager at Eurocell.

"We are delighted with our new windows, they are already bringing many benefits to the school, not only aesthetically – there are some real educational benefits too."

Chris Short

Head Teacher, Bradshaw Community Primary School

The window uses Eurocell PVC-U profiles, along with Pilkington Activ™ self-cleaning glass as its major components. It features an in-line horizontal sliding action which allows up to 50 per cent of the window area to open without the need for hinges, locking points, levers or handles.

Absence of opening restrictors on the old windows was a major concern for the school as it allowed pupils to could climb through them, whilst there was also a danger of balls being kicked through the closed single glazed windows with the obvious risk of broken glass.

Rapidvent overcame this because its open area is covered with sheet stainless steel punched with tiny holes to create a virtually invisible mesh. Although, in description this sounds austere, it is actually surprisingly discreet. Even when fully open, the mesh still allows fresh air, natural sound and light to enter the classrooms.

An additional benefit of the Rapidvent windows, not considered by the school, was that they prevent insects entering the classroom, which can be a distraction for pupils. This was a real bonus in the autumn term as it stops wasps getting into the building through the windows.

The Rapidvent windows fitted at the school achieve an A-rating for energy efficiency. Calculations by design, management and engineering company WSP show that this saves £120 per year, per classroom. Rapidvent delivers ten-times the natural ventilation rate, exceeding Building Bulletin 101 (BB101) – Ventilation of School Buildings, entirely by passive means.

This reduces the need for energy intensive cooling systems and means that Green Guide A-rated Rapidvent can contribute to a building achieving BREEAM ‘Excellent’ rating.

Chris Short, Head Teacher, Bradshaw Community Primary School said, **“We have all commented on the improved ventilation in the classrooms – on a warm day you can open the windows fully and the breeze coming in is noticeable. We all know that pupils and teachers find it difficult to work and concentrate in hot rooms and Rapidvent helps us mitigate uncomfortable classrooms.”**

Britplas offers two versions of its award winning window. Rapidvent is ideal for use in health and education environments such as hospitals, NHS, schools care homes and commercial buildings. Safevent is the anti-ligature version of Rapidvent and provides a sensitive solution for secure facilities, whilst maximising natural light and ventilation.

“The success of Rapidvent and Safevent demonstrates what can be achieved when companies work in partnership to address specific customer needs,” said Kevin Gorman, Chairman of Britplas. **“We have won a considerable amount of new business with this innovative range including from as far afield as Australia.”**

