



Case Study:

Priors Court School for young people with autism

Description: Residential Accommodation for Children with special Needs

ThermaSkirt Profile: EasyClean 2 & 3

Client: Priors Court Foundation

Priors Court Foundation is an independent specialist school and residential facility for young people with autism, moderate to severe learning difficulties and complex needs. The Charity is a recognised leader in the provision of care and education of young people with autism, severe learning difficulties and challenging behaviours.

Based near Thatcham in Berkshire, the School is made up of a diverse mix of buildings set within 50 acres.

The Challenge

The Henley House Project is the conversion of a 1970's timber framed bungalow to provide 2 individual living facilities, with adjoining educational facilities, for young people whose needs have become complex to manage. Keith Cox, Capital Projects Manager explains further "At Priors Court, we have to cater for children with a very wide range of challenging behaviours, and still provide them with a safe and comfortable living and learning environment. One of the many problems we face is dealing with a suitable heating system that is sufficiently robust. When we were developing the design for Henley House, we did not want LST radiators as we have had a large number of them damaged. Adding radiator covers to help prevent damage was far too institutional and underfloor heating was not an option with the timber flooring. We were therefore looking for an alternative means of heating so I Googled 'RADIATOR ALTERNATIVE' and was directed to the Discrete Heat website".

The Solution

Keith came across DiscreteHeat and their recently introduced EasyClean radiant skirting heating solution. The EasyClean provides a warm water radiant panel in an easy-to-clean aluminium skirting trim that can be connected onto a conventional central heating system or even a renewable energy source such as a ground or air source heat pump.

The EasyClean system has been developed in cooperation with the NHS and several major care home and assisted living providers as a more hygienic, safe and secure alternative to radiators and a more responsive and controllable alternative to underfloor heating.

By being 'above ground' the systems performance is unaffected by the final choice of floor covering, and is simple to install, adapt and maintain. More importantly EasyClean responds quickly to the sudden and unpredictable heating demands found in the UK due to its varied climate. This is especially important for persons either living with dementia or in need of constant care, as overheating, which is a major problem in smaller rooms heated by UFH, is a recognised trigger of challenging behaviour.

Keith explains further; “The needs of our young people are particularly acute, and DiscreteHeat were quick to adapt and modify the product to meet our specific requirements. This included high security fixings and cover plates that could withstand harsh treatment”.

The Result

The Henley House accommodation has been occupied for a few months now, and the heating has worked very well. Controlled by underfloor heating type manifolds located in the loft space, the system uses discreet temperature sensors to quickly control the environment in each room. Keith concluded We have had no issues with the EasyClean heating system. We will certainly consider using it on similar projects in the future.”

The Easyclean system has now been specified on several major health care and assisted living projects as well being the preferred heating source of the NHS under their Procure P21+ Standard components program.