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Title:

Latest Technology



## Galloway Electronics lends an ear to school pupils with latest technology

School children who sit at the back of the class no longer have to compromise their education, because they are struggling to hear what the teacher says.

Pupils at Kilham CE VC Primary School, near Drifffield, East Yorkshire, don't have any difficulty hearing during lessons after a Sound Field Voice Re-inforcement System was installed by Galloway Electronics Ltd.

Teachers speak into a wireless microphone during lessons, which amplifies their voices at a consistent level across the classroom or assembly hall using loudspeakers installed in the ceiling.

After the system has been used over a period of time at Kilham CE VC Primary School, it has been found that overall attention spans have improved among pupils, as well as teachers not needing to raise their voices to reach the back of the class. The system is so successful that the school has just had the system installed in its £750,000 extension as well.

Galloway Electronics, which is based in Geneva Way, east Hull, installed the system – which is also known as an "i-ceiling" and is often used in conference centres too – at the request of the school because one of their pupils suffered from hearing difficulties.

However, Kilham CE VC Primary School's headteacher Dennis Hardwick says the system has certainly proven to be a benefit for the whole school. "We have definitely found that pupils' overall attention spans have improved as a result of the system being installed," he said.

"One of our teachers also pointed out that she used to suffer from a lot of sore throats during the winter months, but this year is the first time she hasn't had to have any time off. She says she didn't need to use as much power in her voice because of the Sound Field system.

"The system has also been very popular with lots of the children who use it for reading aloud purposes. Those who didn't have the confidence to read aloud during lessons are now eager to do so, using the microphone.

"We initially had the system installed for one of our pupils who has hearing aids in both ears, but it's now used by the whole school. We would definitely recommend it to other schools."

The system has proved very popular with pupils at the school.

Emma Wain, aged 11, said: "I enjoy using the system, especially when I read aloud in class. It is fun to use and everyone can hear much better."

Six-year-old Ewan Stork added: "I can hear what the teachers say much better when they use the microphone."

Galloway Electronics also recently installed a similar system at Welton Primary School. Many educational establishments continue to be plagued by poor acoustics, which can impair the learning process and interfere with the ability of teachers and pupils to communicate effectively. This issue is so important that the provision of adequate acoustic conditions in school premises is covered by parliamentary legislation, which places a legal duty on those responsible for the design, construction or refurbishment of schools.

The Sound Field system is often referred to as an "i-ceiling" due to its use of state-of-the-art flat panel NXT speaker technology. This means the speakers are indistinguishable from ordinary ceiling tiles or can even be hung on a wall as a picture. The transmission is based on infra red technology which means there is no cross-talk between classrooms unlike the traditional RF systems.



Galloway Electronics' managing director Peter Galloway said: "The Sound Field system is something which is becoming more and more common in schools all over the country.

"It's particularly useful now that class sizes are getting increasingly larger. It can improve sickness rates among teachers too because they no longer need to get sore throats as a result of shouting to the back of a classroom.

"We were proud to be at the forefront of the installation at Kilham CE VC Primary School and we're looking forward to bringing this kind of technology to other schools."

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