



Improving educational outcomes **the right way**

At Gratnells, we are all about the next generation, from improving educational outcomes through to ensuring a better planet for tomorrow.

Our commitment to community and sustainability is at the core of everything we do. From our world-leading storage solutions and iconic trays, to our collaborations with schools and investment in educational research, we're dedicated to building a brighter future for our planet and communities globally.

Sustainability isn't just a goal for us; it's an integral part of what being successful means. We aim to make a positive impact on the environment and society by embedding eco-friendly practices and social responsibility into every aspect of our business. Leading by example, we inspire positive change.

HERE'S HOW WE ARE ALREADY MAKING A DIFFERENCE...





PLSIP TEAM



PROF. PETER BARRETT



STEPHEN HEPPELL

Space Matters. Let's design learning better

“IF WE TEACH TODAY’S STUDENTS AS WE TAUGHT YESTERDAY’S, WE ROB THEM OF TOMORROW.”

JOHN DEWEY (1859-1952)
American philosopher, psychologist and educational reformer

These words are as inspiring today as when they were first spoken more than a century ago. Our mission is to create world-leading learning environments that improve educational outcomes for pupils everywhere.

At our Research & Development R&D Headquarters in Cambridge, the UK’s leading centre for innovation and education expertise, we drive bespoke research, design, and development. As a result of this work, we are able to enhance learning spaces



PRODUCT DESIGN TEAM

globally, develop new product concepts, and support the delivery of a 21st-century curriculum.

Collaborating with top education experts also ensures our work is responsible, intelligent, and always in the best interests of the educators and pupils we serve.



Community

Our efforts make a tangible difference, from the way we make our products to creating learning spaces that transform pupils' lives.

We are proud to have played a part in the UK's first biophilic school.

St Marys CV Academy in Derby was built as part of a pilot project by the Department for Education. Biophilic design focuses on connecting those inside with nature, with the goal of promoting physical and mental health.

The school is the greenest in the country; being net-zero carbon in operation, low embodied carbon and an MMC exemplar. We donated our iconic trays to the project, to complement the school's sustainability ethos with their long-lasting durability and lifetime guarantee.



Our partnership with Wirral Hospitals School is a testament to our commitment.

This unique education provider supports some of the UK's most vulnerable young people, offering a safe, warm, and optimistic learning environment. Gratnells has donated a variety of equipment to support the school's efforts.

“THE GENEROSITY OF GRATNELLS TO DONATE A SCIENCE TROLLEY AND SCIENCE FRAMES WITH AN EXTREMELY LARGE SELECTION OF TRAYS TO WIRRAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL HAS BEEN QUITE OVERWHELMING FOR US ALL. EXCITEMENT HAS JUST SPREAD THROUGH THE SCHOOL WITH SO MANY THOUGHTS OF WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED WHEN IN USE.”


JEANETTE HALE
Wirral Hospitals' School

Improving educational outcomes

We believe that the best learning environments are those designed with the insights and needs of those who use them daily. That's why our Planning Learning Spaces in Practice (PLSIP) team work closely with school staff to co-create dynamic and engaging learning spaces.

Our PLSIP team lead in improving schools and giving pupils a sense of belonging. Our work with Geshar School in London supports children with special needs by creating inspiring new spaces following the school's move to a new site.

Staff and learners worked together with the PLSIP team to design their new learning spaces, improving educational outcomes.

[READ MORE](#) 



At Trumpington Park Primary School in Cambridgeshire, our groundbreaking pilot enabled staff to remodel their classrooms around their educational vision, resulting in better engagement, independence, and collaboration among pupils, and doubling their academic progress.

[READ MORE](#) 

We're now sharing this expertise globally, working with schools in New Zealand to enhance academic achievements.

“FROM THE CHILDREN'S PERSPECTIVE THIS PROJECT HAS BROUGHT OWNERSHIP AND A SENSE OF VALUE TO THEIR OWN LEARNING. IT HAS IMPACTED ON THEIR ENGAGEMENT, ENJOYMENT AND LONG-TERM MEMORY”

MEL SHUTE
Head Teacher, Trumpington Park School.



Production



We are committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2030, and we've streamlined our production process at our purpose-built facility in Portugal, using the latest technologies to reduce energy, light, and water consumption. Our energy needs are significantly supplemented by sustainable photovoltaic energy, with plans for a solar park to achieve 100% self-sufficiency.



Striving to become carbon neutral by 2030



Translucent coatings on roofs and facades reduce the use of artificial light, while LED units maximise efficiency where necessary.



Our energy needs are significantly supplemented by sustainable photovoltaic energy, with plans for a solar park to achieve 100% self-sufficiency.



Treated industrial wastewater supplies our water needs, and the surrounding natural environment encourages wildlife and provides an inspiring space for colleagues to reset and relax during breaks.



Safely built to last

We offer more than 1,000 specialist educational and storage products to schools worldwide. Our robust, colourful trays are sustainable, fully recyclable, and built to last a lifetime. In fact, one tray can see a student through their entire school journey!



20
YEARS OLD

"My food technician has been at the school for 20 years and still uses the same Gratnells trays from when she started."

JAKE,
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER

30
YEARS OLD

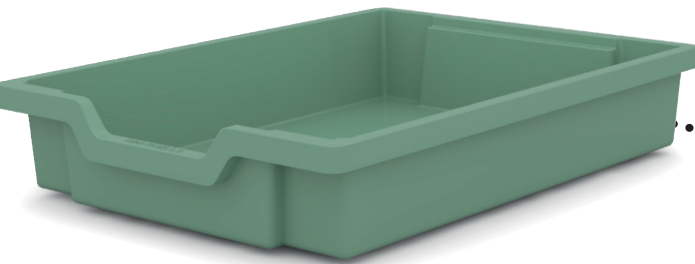
"We have trays from the 1990s. They really are so sturdy and hard wearing, and perfect for what we need them for."

SAM,
SCIENCE EDUCATOR

12+
YEARS OLD

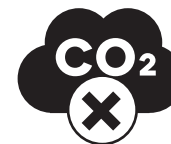
"I love your trays, 12 years old (so far, going strong!)"

IRENE,
SCIENCE TECHNICIAN



"WE HAVE SUCH A WIDE RANGE OF AGES, AND SO MANY TRAYS IT WOULD TAKE ME FOREVER TO FIND THE OLDEST. SOME OF THEM MUST BE OLDER THAN ME AND SOME ARE BRAND NEW. GRATNELLS ARE THE BEST AND I LOVE THE RANGE OF COLOURS. A SCHOOL WOULDN'T BE A SCHOOL WITHOUT GRATNELLS!"

CHLOE
Science Technician



All our trays are also VOC tested, ensuring no harmful emissions during manufacturing.

ZERO
WASTE

Waste is reground & reused.



Next steps

We're already doing many things the right way. We **REDUCE, REUSE & RECYCLE** wherever possible, and we're working towards clear short- and long-term goals to make an even greater positive contribution. This includes setting benchmarks for future industry achievements.

People



Mental health

Partnering with the UK Government's Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) to promote well-being among colleagues, including training on identifying common conditions and supporting each other.



Workforce welfare

Upholding a zero-tolerance approach to Modern Slavery, acting ethically in all business dealings.



Ethical trading & sourcing

Ensuring high standards throughout our supply chains, in line with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, and expecting the same from all our contractors, suppliers, and business partners.



Planet

We are deeply committed to environmental stewardship, ensuring that every aspect of our operations reflects our dedication to sustainability.



Wood & Cardboard

Every piece of wood used in our furniture and all the cardboard in our packaging is sourced from FSC-certified forests. This certification guarantees that the forests supplying our materials are managed in a manner that safeguards biodiversity, supports local communities, and maintains long-term economic viability. By adhering to strict environmental, social, and economic standards, we ensure that our products uphold the highest standards of sustainability.



Manufacturing waste

We are dedicated to eliminating waste from every stage of our production processes, enhancing customer experience, reducing lead times, and maintaining competitive pricing. Our internal goal is to achieve zero waste to landfill by the end of the decade, driving continuous improvement in our sustainability efforts.



Supply Chain

We hold our tier one supply chains to the highest standards, evaluating them for compliance with ISO 14001:2015 and prioritising partners who share our commitment to sustainability. Our rigorous auditing processes cover all aspects of sustainability, both internally and externally. Additionally, we collaborate closely with our transport partners to optimise efficiency and minimise environmental impact, striving to exceed sustainability targets while ensuring timely delivery.

In the USA, our products are proudly manufactured and distributed from St Louis, Missouri, while our UK customers are served from a new distribution centre in Essex, reflecting our commitment to minimising transport emissions.



Planet



Sustainable Solutions

Gratnells is proud to be the only educational furniture manufacturer in the UK plastics industry to pledge support for Operation Clean Sweep® (OCS), a global initiative aimed at reducing plastic pellet loss and protecting the environment.



Renewable energies & energy management

Through innovative production processes, we are reducing energy, light, and water consumption while harnessing renewable energy sources to power our operations. This commitment to sustainable energy management is integral to our ethos of environmental responsibility.



Recycling

Our commitment to recycling extends across all aspects of our operations. Our trays are 100% recyclable, and any waste or defective trays are recycled for reuse. Moreover, all metal waste is recycled, and paper and cardboard waste are compacted on-site before being sent for recycling, minimising road journeys and reducing emissions. Looking ahead, we are committed to transitioning to packaging made exclusively from recyclable materials within the next 5 years, further reducing our environmental footprint.

In addition, we are committed to **REDUCING, REUSING & RECYCLING** throughout our business, and will continue to set ourselves targets

We are leading the way by integrating all of these practices into our business every day and focusing on securing a better future for the next generation. As a result, we are improving outcomes for all our stakeholders, from reducing our environmental footprint and promoting a more sustainable future, to doing business the right way, empowering people throughout our supply chain, and creating inspiration and new opportunities within the classroom.

