

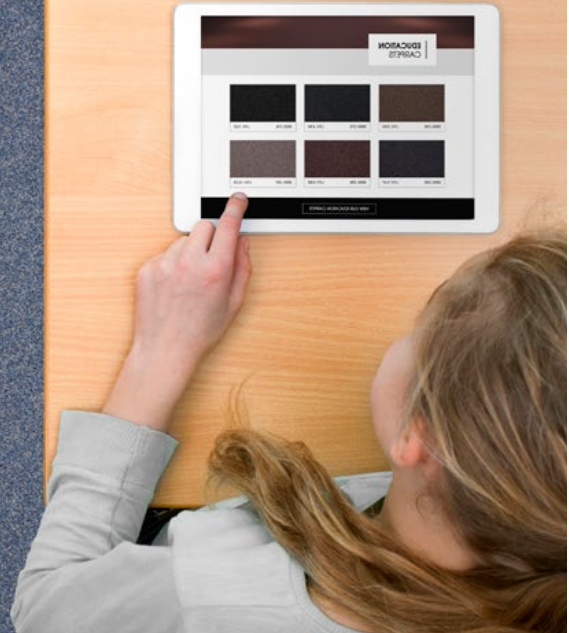


danfloor
An Ulster Group Company

**INVESTING
IN EDUCATION**



CREATE OPTIMUM LEARNING AND LIVING ENVIRONMENTS



The boarding population has changed significantly in recent years and many parents today have expectations which differ from those in the past.

Parents today seek higher standards of accommodation and comfort, with an atmosphere more comparable with home. Many boarding schools are reviewing their boarding accommodation in order to meet these expectations and regard improvement as a high priority.

When considering products and materials to facilitate quality design, elements such as durability, comfort and performance reach the top of the specification list with flooring sometimes being an afterthought. However, by considering a flooring solution which is engineered to meet the demands of the education sector, it can bring many benefits to a learning and living environment.



76%

of students ranked building and facilities as either quite or very important in their choice of educational facility in a recent study*

GOOD DESIGN PRINCIPLES COVERED BY CARPET

Acoustics

Carpet has a unique ability to reduce sound impact levels and research suggests that it is 10 times more efficient in reducing noise compared to other flooring options¹. Background noise from inside and outside a building negatively affects learning, especially for children who require optimal conditions for hearing, comprehension, rest and relaxation.



Aesthetics

Carpets can be a useful way of creating flexible leaning and living spaces, making it comfortable for students and House Staff to sit, stand and lie down on the floor.

In addition, students who may be living with sensory impairments the use of contrast and colour, tone and texture on wall and floor surfaces for identification and location is important for facilitating orientation.

Carpet is not only perceived as being warmer and providing more comfort, it also offers a glare-free surface which helps to reduce reflection and eye strain.



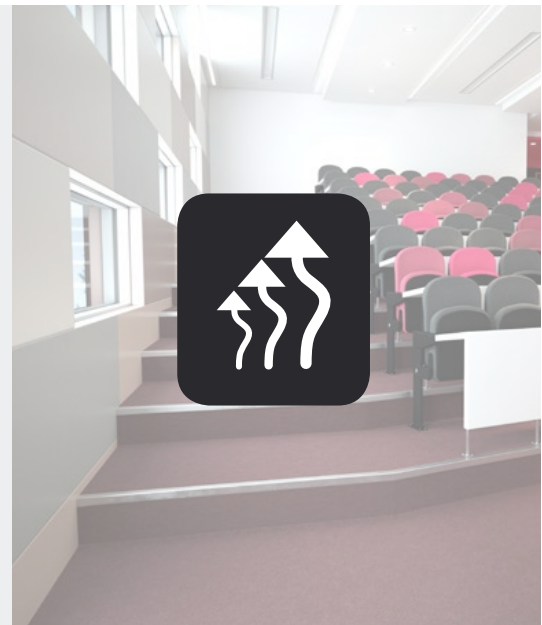
Energy Saving

Carpet acts a thermal insulator, improves energy consumption and has low heat conduction. It is estimated that energy savings of between 8-13% can be achieved with the installation of carpet and as a consequent a reduction in energy cost can be experienced². In fact, a study by Rees reported the case of a school in the USA, where carpeting reduced heating fuel consumption by 5-13% compared to a very similar uncarpeted school³.



Indoor air quality

According to The World Health Organisation (WHO) one of the biggest risk factors for an asthma attack is the inhalation of substances and particles that may provoke the airways⁴. There are many studies which conclude that carpet can improve indoor air quality by capturing the allergens in its fibres prior to removal therefore preventing them from circulating back into the air. The allergens should then be removed through regular vacuuming⁵. There are other studies which suggest that walking on hard surfaces disturbs more particles causing them to become airborne into the breathing zone. In comparison on carpet more of these particles remain in the carpet fibres, resulting in less dust in the breathing zone⁶.



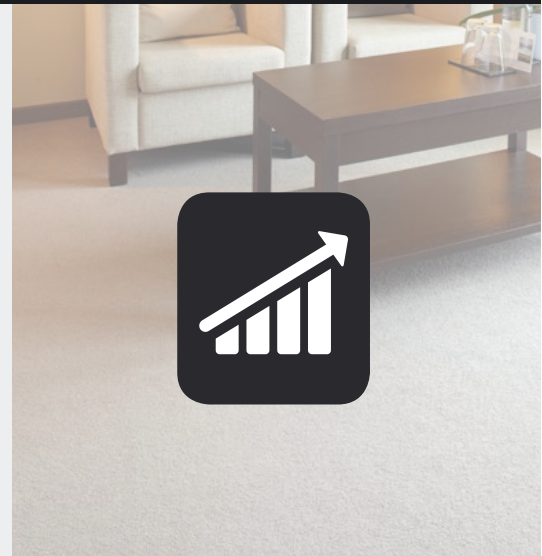
Cost Saving

A specially selected carpet which is installed and maintained properly lasts up to 10 years, if not longer. However, a proper life cycle analysis is key to proving that carpet is more cost effective than other hard flooring solutions on the market. A 2002 report, "Life cycle cost analysis for floor coverings in school facilities" prepared by the Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification found that carpet could be 65% less expensive to maintain than a hard surface flooring.

In the study, buying and installing the hard surface flooring was less expensive than carpet, but when labour, supplies and equipment costs were calculated over the 22-year life cycle, carpet proved to be more cost effective. 22 Years was the life expectancy of the hard surface flooring so the cost of replacing carpet after 11 years was factored in to the analysis. The study also found that hard surface floors require two and a half times more cleaning than carpet and that hard surface cleaning supplies are about seven times more expensive than supplies for carpeted floors⁷.

Income generator

When the students return home for the holidays the opportunity to let boarding facilities means that the standard of accommodation has to meet not only the needs of students, but those who choose to visit and use the facilities during the holidays.



Innovative Carpet Solutions

To see how danfloor carpet can achieve all the above whilst offering outstanding performance features, review our Features section of the web site. Alternatively contact your Area Representative for more information or sample material.

www.danfloor.co.uk

danfloor have a proven track record in supplying carpet into boarding facilities.



Queen Margaret's
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References

*Study by London School of Economic Estates Division and higher Education Design Quality Forum (HEDQF)

1 - American Society of Interior Designers (1996) "Sound Solutions: increasing office productivity through integrated acoustic planning and noise reduction strategies"

2 https://www.researchgate.net/publication/298352974_The_Thermal_Properties_of_Wool_Carpets

3 Rees WH. (1969). Heat insulation properties of carpets and underlays.

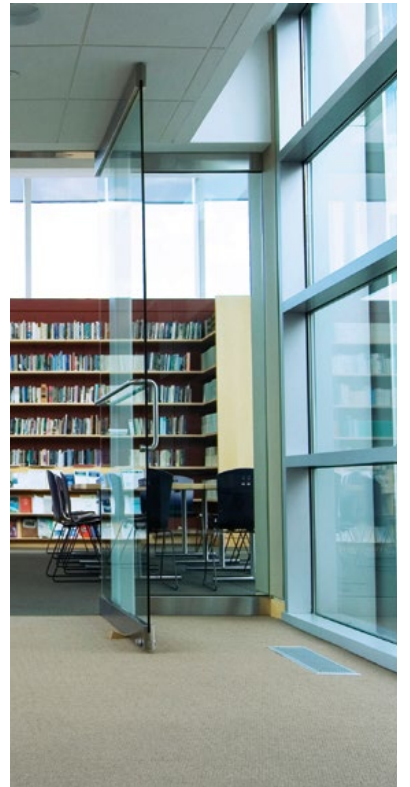
4 <http://www.who.int/features/qa/46/en/>

5 Dr Heike Neumeister-Kemp, The School of Biological Science, Murdoch University, Perth Australia (2005)

6 Asbury G., & Professional Testing Laboratory Inc (2002) "Cleaning and Foot Traffic Emissions Analysis, Test Number 0072198"

7 Bishop J., and Institute of inspection, cleaning and restoration certificate. (2002) "A Lifecycle cost Analysis for Floor Coverings in School Facilities."

Boarding Accommodation A Design Guide - <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20111122053929/https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/011270977X.pdf>



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