ZenZone™
Accoustic solutions

Clearer Sound. Smarter Spaces
for Education and Business

Presentation Spaces™

The Science of Sound in Your Space

Joe Sutcliffe
Managing Director

Always the centre of attention

We help our clients boost productivity and engagement with Innovative Accoustic Solutions with a wide range of genuinely hand picked products that we know will serve you well.

Helping you get the very best display and presentation solutions for your particular environment is what we do best but its not the only reason people choose us:

- Free, knowledgeable advice whenever you need it
- Great pricing. Often significantly cheaper than our competitors
- A fantastic, helpful, Planning and Fitting service
- Projects managed from start-to-finish

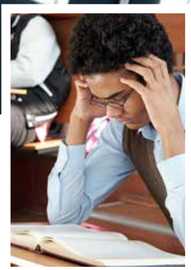
You will find us in; Classrooms, Seminar Rooms, Lecture Theatres, Student Accommodation and Collaborative Spaces. Anywhere you need to grab and hold peoples attention.

Why Acoustics Matter in Educational and Corporate Spaces

In both educational and corporate environments, the quality of sound within a room has a direct impact on the well-being and performance of those using the space. Whether it's a lecture theatre filled with students or a meeting room where teams collaborate, acoustics play a vital role in communication, concentration, and overall comfort.

Poor acoustics can lead to distractions, fatigue, and stress, as echoes and excessive noise create an environment that is difficult to manage. This not only affects performance but also impacts overall well-being. In schools, the effects are profound: pupils may struggle to hear and focus, while teachers may strain their voices and energy levels in trying to be understood. In offices, poor sound quality can reduce productivity and create a stressful atmosphere.

Acoustic treatments are a proven solution to these challenges. By creating quieter, more controlled spaces, we enhance the learning and working experience, fostering environments where everyone can thrive—mentally and physically. At Presentation Spaces, we specialise in transforming rooms into optimised environments that improve well-being and boost productivity, whether in schools or corporate settings.

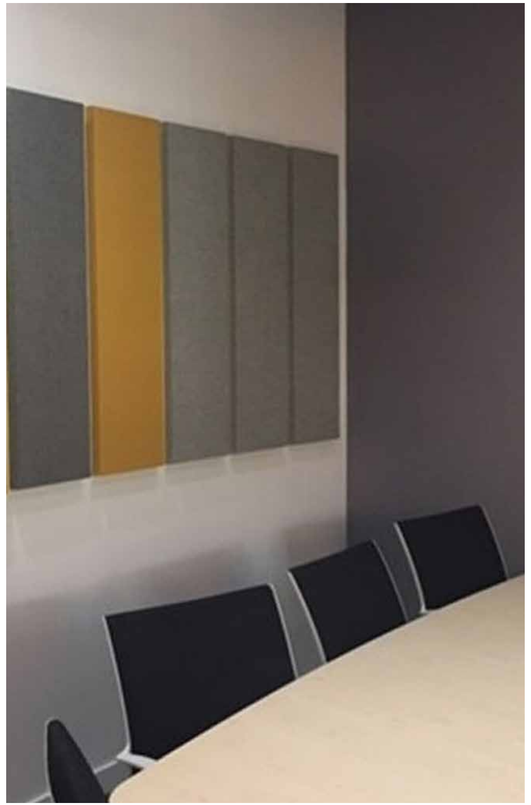


Acoustic Challenges in Educational Settings

In educational environments, acoustics are a vital part of creating a space where students can focus and engage with their lessons. Classrooms, seminar rooms, Study Spaces and lecture theatres that are poorly treated for sound can have a significant negative impact on both students and teachers.

Concentration of Pupils: With and Without Acoustic Treatment
Excessive noise or reverberation disrupts focus, with studies showing that children in noisier classrooms may score up to 25% lower on standardised tests compared to those in quieter rooms. Acoustic treatments that reduce reverberation can dramatically improve concentration, particularly for younger pupils and those with special educational needs (SEN).

The Effect of Acoustics on Learning
Reducing reverberation not only improves clarity but also reduces cognitive load, helping students remain focused for longer periods. Proper acoustic design can lower noise levels by up to 10-20 dB, offering a more conducive learning environment.



Acoustic Challenges in Teaching Environments

While much of the focus in acoustic design is often placed on students, the impact on teachers is equally important. In classrooms with poor acoustics, the challenges extend far beyond noise; they can lead to increased stress, fatigue, and even long-term health problems for teachers. A well-designed acoustic environment benefits both students and teachers, creating a space where teaching and learning can happen seamlessly.

The Hidden Strain: Effects of Poor Acoustics on Teachers
In environments where sound is not properly controlled, teachers often face difficulties in being heard clearly. This leads to a common problem: vocal strain. Teachers regularly have to raise their voices to compete with background noise or to project over long distances, particularly in large or poorly designed classrooms. Over time, this can have serious health implications.

Vocal Health: Studies have shown that teachers are up to 32 times more likely to suffer from voice-related health issues than the average professional. Continuous strain on the voice can lead to chronic problems such as laryngitis, vocal cord nodules, and other voice disorders. This not only impacts their ability to teach effectively but may also result in time off work due to voice rest or medical treatment.

Stress and Fatigue: Teaching in a noisy environment isn't just hard on the voice—it's mentally and physically exhausting. Teachers in acoustically poor environments often report higher levels of stress and fatigue, as they have to manage both the challenge of being heard and the additional classroom distractions caused by noise. Over time, this can lead to burnout, affecting both the quality of teaching and the teacher's overall well-being.

Engagement and Classroom Management: In acoustically challenging spaces, teachers may also find it harder to maintain students' attention, which can lead to more behavioural management issues. The constant struggle to communicate clearly can erode the teacher's ability to engage pupils effectively, impacting learning outcomes.

The Role of Acoustic Treatment in Supporting Teachers
Acoustic treatment in educational spaces not only benefits students but significantly enhances the working environment for teachers. By improving the clarity of sound and reducing background noise, acoustic treatments can help teachers deliver lessons more effectively and comfortably. Here are some key benefits:

Improved Communication: Acoustic panels and treatments reduce reverberation, allowing teachers to speak at normal volumes without straining their voices. This means they can focus on delivering the content of the lesson rather than worrying about whether they're being heard. Improved communication leads to more engaged students, smoother lessons, and fewer classroom management issues.

Healthier Work Environment: With less need to raise their voices, teachers experience less vocal strain, reducing the risk of voice-related health problems. In the long term, this creates a healthier working environment, where teachers can perform at their best without compromising their well-being.

Enhanced Focus and Reduced Disruptions: Acoustic treatments also reduce ambient noise, making it easier for both students and teachers to concentrate. By minimising distractions, lessons flow more smoothly, and teachers can spend less time managing noise-related disruptions and more time focusing on teaching.

Teacher Retention and Satisfaction: A well-designed acoustic environment contributes to teacher satisfaction and retention. When teachers feel supported by their environment and can communicate effectively without straining, they are more likely to enjoy their work and remain in their roles for longer. Schools that invest in good acoustics are not only supporting their students but also ensuring the well-being and success of their teaching staff.

Creating a Positive Teaching Environment
By investing in acoustic treatments, schools and educational facilities can create classrooms that support both learning and teaching. Teachers can deliver lessons with ease, pupils can engage without distraction, and the overall classroom experience is significantly improved for everyone.

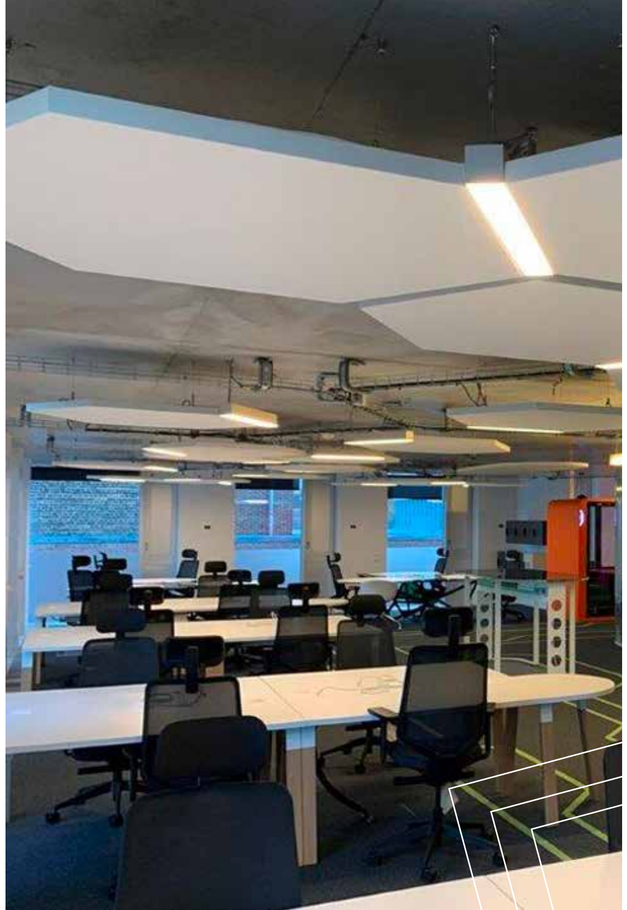
At Presentation Spaces, we offer acoustic solutions designed to create optimal teaching environments. Whether you're working on new builds or refurbishing existing spaces, our acoustic panels and treatments provide the sound clarity and comfort that teachers need to do their jobs effectively, ensuring that their voices are heard clearly without the strain.

Transforming Your Learning Spaces: The Power of Acoustic

Acoustic treatment involves the strategic placement of materials and panels designed to absorb and control sound within a room. Whether it's reducing echo, controlling noise levels, or improving speech clarity, acoustic treatments are highly effective.

What is Acoustic Treatment?
Acoustic treatments can be customised to fit the aesthetic and functional needs of any space. Whether you need discreet ceiling panels in a seminar room or brightly coloured wall panels in a classroom, our solutions are both versatile and effective.

How Acoustic Treatment Reduces Reverberation
Acoustic treatments bring clarity to speech and help create quieter, more focused environments. Studies show that reducing reverberation can enhance the ability to understand speech by up to 30%.



Meeting the Standards: Acoustic Requirements for Educational Spaces

The UK's Building Bulletin 93 (BB93) provides detailed guidelines for acoustic performance in educational buildings. These standards improve sound quality in classrooms, with the goal of supporting student focus and teacher communication.

BB93 recommends classrooms have a reverberation time of less than 0.6 seconds and noise levels below 35 dB. Proper acoustic design can dramatically improve students' ability to focus and reduce teacher fatigue.

Why BB93 Compliance Matters
BB93 compliance ensures optimal acoustic conditions for both students and teachers. By meeting these guidelines, schools not only create a better learning environment but also improve overall well-being. Improved acoustic environments lead to better student behaviour, enhanced learning outcomes, and reduced teacher stress.

Understanding BB93 – What Teachers Need to Know About Classroom Acoustics

Building Bulletin 93 (BB93) sets the minimum acoustic performance standards for school buildings in England and Wales.

While it's aimed primarily at architects and specifiers, the outcomes of BB93 directly impact teaching and learning. For teachers, good acoustics aren't just a 'nice to have' – they're essential for maintaining attention, reducing teacher vocal strain, and ensuring every child can hear and be heard.

At its core, BB93 exists to make sure that classrooms and learning spaces are designed to support clear communication, especially for younger pupils and those with hearing, language or communication needs. It covers everything from noise levels and echo control to sound insulation between rooms.

Key Standards Affecting Teachers:

• Background Noise: Classrooms should not exceed 35-40 dB when unoccupied. This means building systems (like ventilation), nearby traffic, or adjacent rooms shouldn't interfere with speech clarity.

• Reverberation Time: Echo and sound reflection must be controlled. Most classrooms must meet a maximum reverberation time of 0.6 to 0.8 seconds – vital for speech clarity, especially in younger age groups or for pupils with SEND.

• Sound Insulation: BB93 requires good soundproofing between teaching rooms and corridors, stairwells or other learning areas, to reduce distraction and maintain focus.

• Open Plan Spaces: These must meet additional speech intelligibility standards (measured by STI – Speech Transmission Index) to ensure voices aren't lost in the background noise.

Why It Matters to You:

Poor acoustic conditions can lead to miscommunication, increased pupil frustration, and higher stress levels for staff. If you find yourself raising your voice regularly, struggling with noisy corridors, or noticing pupils withdrawing or misbehaving due to noise, your environment may not meet BB93 standards.

Additionally, under the School Premises Regulations and Equality Act 2010, schools are legally required to provide suitable learning environments for all pupils – particularly those with disabilities or additional communication needs.

What Can You Do?

While larger improvements may require building changes, teachers can:

• Flag recurring acoustic issues to school leadership.
• Rearrange rooms to reduce echo or avoid sound spill from corridors.
• Use soft furnishings or acoustic pinboards to help absorb sound.
• Seek advice on classroom adaptations that support pupils with hearing or processing difficulties.

Creating an acoustically sound classroom is not just about compliance – it's about giving every pupil the chance to succeed.

Good classroom acoustics are vital for learning.
BB93 sets the minimum standards to ensure pupils can hear clearly, stay focused, and feel comfortable — especially important for children with hearing impairments or communication difficulties.

Key Takeaways:

- Classrooms should be quiet enough for clear speech.
- Background noise from HVAC systems, adjacent rooms, or external sources must be minimised.
- Reverberation (echo) should be controlled to aid speech clarity.
- Open plan spaces need special consideration due to potential noise build-up.
- Children with additional needs require even better acoustic conditions.

Fast, economical and practical solutions to common acoustic issues in educational settings:

Issue: Loud background noise?

Solution: Install Zen Acoustic Pin Boards, which serve as both notice boards and sound-absorbing panels, reducing echo and background noise in classrooms.

Issue: Echo in hard-surfaced rooms?

Solution: Apply Zen Pearl Adhesive Acoustic Wall Panels to walls. These panels are designed to reduce reverberation and can be arranged in various patterns to enhance both acoustics and aesthetics.

Issue: Noise from corridors or adjacent rooms?

Solution: Utilize Zen Liner Wall Panels to line shared walls. These panels effectively absorb sound, minimizing noise intrusion from adjoining spaces.

Issue: Poor speech clarity in open-plan rooms?

Solution: Suspend Zen Raft Sound-Absorbing Ceiling Panels from the ceiling to reduce overall noise levels and improve speech intelligibility in open areas.

Implementing these solutions can significantly enhance the acoustic environment, leading to better communication and a more conducive learning atmosphere.

BB93 reverberation times

Two critical factors in any environment are reverberation and decibel levels, both of which have a profound effect on how sound is experienced in a room.

What is Reverberation?

Reverberation refers to the persistence of sound after the original sound is produced. In classrooms, seminar rooms, and offices, excessive reverberation can make it difficult for individuals to clearly hear and understand speech. For example, the UK's BB93 guidelines recommend a reverberation time of less than 0.6 seconds for classrooms. Rooms with excessive reverberation make it harder for students to understand speech, especially for those with hearing impairments or attention disorders like ADHD.

Reverberation Times

Reverberation time is the measure of how long it takes for sound to fade away. Different spaces require different reverberation times for optimal acoustics. For classrooms and corporate settings, shorter reverberation times ensure clearer communication.

Decibel Levels and Their Impact

Decibel (dB) levels measure the intensity of sound. High decibel levels can cause discomfort, distractions, and even fatigue. Acoustic treatments that lower noise by 10-20 dB can make a significant difference, especially for students with ADHD, helping them to concentrate better in quieter, more controlled environments.

Room	New Build (seconds)	Refurbishment (seconds)
General teaching areas (classroom, seminar room, small group room)	≤ 0.8	≤1.0
Open plan teaching area / breakout area	≤ 0.5/≤1.2	≤ 0.5/≤1.2
Primary/secondary music room/recital room	≤1.0/≤1.0 /1.0 – 1.5	≤1.0/≤1.0 /1.0 – 1.5
Ensemble Room	0.6 – 1.2	0.6 – 1.2
Lecture Room	≤1.0	≤1.0
Special hearing and communication teaching spaces	≤ 0.4	≤ 0.4
Multi-purpose hall	0.8- 1.2	0.8 – 1.5
Libraries	≤1.0	≤ 1.2
Science Labs/Design and Tech rooms	≤ 0.8	≤1.0
Drama Studio	≤1.0	≤1.0
Atrium/Circulation Space	≤1.5	≤ 2.0
Sports hall/ Dance studio	≤1.5/≤1.2	≤ 2.0/≤1.5
Swimming Pool	≤ (1.5 – 2.0)	≤ 2.0
Dining Room	≤ 1.0	≤ 1.5

A Comprehensive Range of Acoustic Panels: Tailored Solutions for Every Space

At Presentation Spaces, we offer a diverse range of acoustic panels designed to suit different environments and specific needs.

Whether you're looking to reduce noise in a classroom, improve sound clarity in a seminar room, or create a quieter office space, our acoustic solutions are flexible, customisable, and highly effective.

Here's a breakdown of the 5 main types of acoustic panels we offer:

1. Ceiling Acoustic Panels

Ceiling-mounted acoustic panels are an ideal solution for reducing reverberation and controlling noise in large, open spaces. These panels are particularly effective in classrooms, lecture theatres, and corporate meeting rooms, where high ceilings can cause sound to bounce and create echoes.

Benefits: Ceiling panels absorb sound before it can reflect off hard surfaces, reducing reverberation times and enhancing speech clarity. They are discreet and can be integrated into the existing ceiling structure, making them a great solution for maintaining a clean, professional aesthetic.

Applications: Commonly used in educational environments, offices, and conference rooms, ceiling panels are perfect for spaces where high sound quality is essential.

2. Hanging Acoustic Panels

Hanging or suspended acoustic panels are a versatile option, designed to be installed as "clouds" or baffles that hang from the ceiling. These panels are highly effective in open-plan spaces or environments with high ceilings, as they can be strategically placed to manage sound more directly.

Benefits: Suspended acoustic panels are particularly useful in large rooms or open-plan areas, where they can reduce ambient noise and improve overall sound quality. They also add a dynamic design element to the room, often available in a variety of shapes and colours to match or enhance the space's aesthetic.

Applications: Ideal for school halls, dining areas, libraries, and open office spaces, hanging panels not only control noise but also create an interesting visual feature.

3. Wall-Mounted Acoustic Panels

Wall-mounted acoustic panels are one of the most common and effective solutions for reducing noise and improving acoustics in both small and large spaces. These panels are installed directly onto the walls, offering both sound absorption and aesthetic customisation.

Benefits: bouncing off walls, dramatically improving speech intelligibility in classrooms, offices, and meeting rooms. They are available in various designs, colours, and sizes, making them highly versatile for any space.

Applications: These panels are particularly useful in classrooms, seminar rooms, corridors, and offices where noise control and speech clarity are key priorities.

4. Acoustic Ceiling Tiles

Acoustic ceiling tiles are an efficient way to reduce sound reflections in large spaces. These tiles are integrated into the existing ceiling grid and are designed to absorb noise while maintaining the overall visual appearance of the ceiling.

Benefits: Ceiling tiles offer an effective and non-intrusive way to manage sound in spaces where full acoustic treatments may not be feasible. They help create a balanced acoustic environment without detracting from the room's design.

Applications: Suitable for classrooms, offices, and conference rooms, ceiling tiles are an ideal solution for large spaces where reducing noise and improving clarity is crucial.

5. Mobile Acoustic Panels

Mobile acoustic panels are a flexible, moveable solution that allows you to adapt the acoustic environment based on the specific needs of the moment. These panels can be easily repositioned to create quieter areas or break up larger spaces to reduce noise.

Benefits: With their portability, mobile acoustic panels provide a quick and versatile solution for changing environments. They are ideal for temporary installations, dynamic workspaces, or classrooms where the layout might need to be adjusted regularly.

Applications: Mobile panels are perfect for open-plan offices, flexible classrooms, and collaborative spaces where room layouts may frequently change. They are also useful for creating temporary quiet zones in busy areas.

Zen GymPact

Our range of Durable, Impact-Resistant Acoustic Wall Panels for High-Activity Spaces like gyms and sports halls

Zen Gympact panels are specially designed for environments where durability and sound control are equally important — such as sports halls, gymnasiums, school halls, leisure centres, and multi-use spaces. Manufactured from rigid, recycled fibreglass, these panels combine exceptional acoustic absorption with high impact resistance, making them ideal for areas subject to physical activity and frequent use.

Tested to meet the stringent safety standards of DIN 18032-3:1997-04, Zen Gympact panels are proven to withstand ball impacts and physical contact, ensuring both performance and safety in active environments. By effectively reducing echo and controlling reverberation, they create a more comfortable and intelligible acoustic environment — essential for teaching, coaching, and performance.

Each panel is finished in a high-quality fabric, available in a wide range of colours to suit your interior scheme. The fabric is neatly wrapped around all four edges, eliminating the need for visible trims and creating a sleek, seamless look. Panels are custom-made to your required dimensions and are installed using a simple but secure clip and adhesive system.

Whether you're upgrading a school sports hall or improving acoustics in a university gym, Zen Gympact provides a robust, attractive, and practical solution that enhances both sound quality and space resilience.

Need help with sizing, installation or large orders?
Contact our Technical Team on 011383 913 913 for expert support.

See rear of brochure for our panel colour, shape and sample combinations

Acousticolour FR® Noticeboards

Fire-resistant (FR) boards to brighten up your learning spaces

ZenZone's Acousticolour FR® noticeboards are a smart, sustainable solution for schools, colleges, and universities looking to improve both acoustic comfort and classroom functionality. These fire-resistant (FR) panels are made from 100% PET plastic, with approximately 75% derived from post-consumer waste – making them a great choice for eco-conscious institutions.

Lightweight, durable, and easy to maintain, Acousticolour FR® boards feature a soft, felt-like surface that's pinnable, making them ideal for displaying student work, lesson materials, or key information. They're also acoustically absorbent, helping to reduce noise and improve focus — a particularly valuable feature in classrooms, SEN spaces, and breakout areas.

Available in a wide range of colours, these boards can be installed on walls or ceilings and used as part of furniture systems or decorative room dividers. The Class B fire rating (BS EN 13501-1) ensures safety compliance in line with BB93 and other educational guidelines.

Whether you're updating a teaching space, designing a sensory-friendly zone, or improving acoustic performance across your school, Acousticolour FR® noticeboards offer a multifunctional, sustainable, and aesthetically pleasing solution.

Need help with sizing, installation or large orders?
Contact our Technical Team on 011383 913 913 for expert support.

Varied Colour options

Bespoke acoustic solutions for every space

Every learning environment is different – from traditional classrooms to open-plan collaborative zones, specialist SEND rooms, sports halls and seminar spaces. At Presentation Spaces, we understand that one-size-fits-all simply doesn't apply when it comes to classroom acoustics. That's why we specialise in designing and delivering entirely bespoke acoustic solutions, tailored to the needs of each educational setting.

In line with Building Bulletin 93 (BB93), all schools must meet minimum acoustic standards to support effective teaching and learning. BB93 covers critical elements such as background noise levels, reverberation time, and sound insulation between spaces. These standards are particularly important for pupils with special educational needs or hearing impairments, where poor acoustic conditions can significantly impact access to learning.

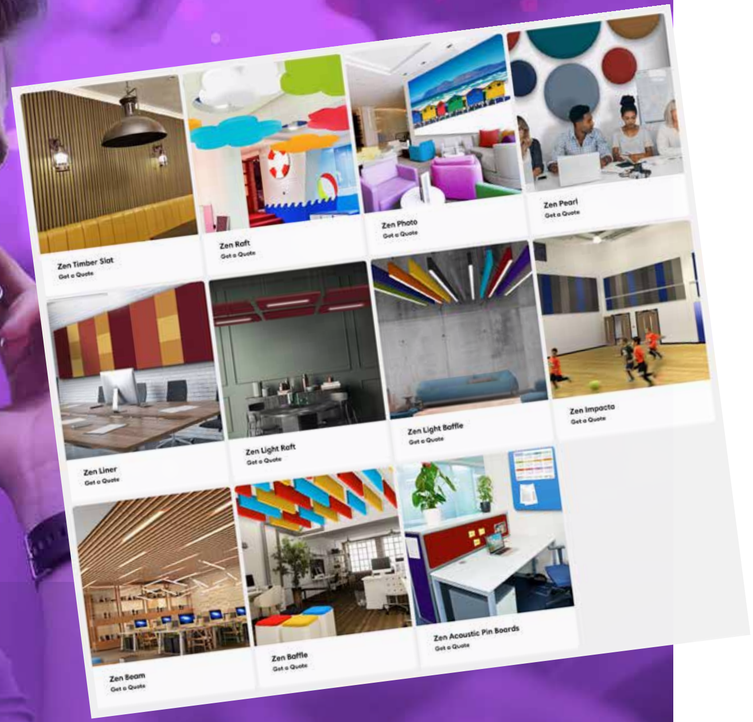
We work closely with schools, architects, and facilities managers to ensure each space meets or exceeds these benchmarks – not just on paper, but in real-world performance. Whether it's reducing echo in a hard-surfaced hall, cutting disruptive noise from corridors, or improving speech clarity in open-plan areas, our high-performance acoustic products are designed for durability, aesthetic appeal, and easy installation.

Many issues can be addressed quickly and effectively using purpose-designed panels, ceiling rafts, wall absorbers, and acoustic pinboards. We offer a wide range of finishes, shapes and configurations – or we can develop completely custom solutions to suit your layout, vision and budget.

Whatever the challenge, we'll help you create an environment where every voice can be heard, and every pupil can thrive.

Images of our recent bespoke installation for Warwick University

Tailored Solutions for quieter spaces



Why choose Zen Zone from Presentation Spaces?

At Presentation Spaces, we offer more than just products — we provide a full-service solution. From site surveys to installation, our expert team ensures your acoustic needs are

Site Surveys
Tailored Assessments for Optimal Solutions
We begin with a detailed site survey, assessing the size, layout, and specific acoustic challenges of your room.

Planning and Specification Assistance
Our complimentary planning services guide you through choosing the most suitable acoustic solutions, ensuring compliance with BB93.

Installation: A Smooth Process from Start to Finish
Our skilled installation teams work across the UK, completing projects with minimal disruption and to the highest standards.

Bespoke Solutions for Every Space
We offer custom-sized acoustic panels and solutions tailored to your space's unique requirements.

Quality Products at Competitive Prices
Our products are crafted to the highest standards and offer the best value in the industry.

Dependable Delivery Across the UK
We provide reliable, UK-wide delivery services to ensure your products arrive on time.

Comprehensive Installation and Bespoke Solutions
We provide full installation services, and our custom solutions ensure that each project is tailored to your needs.

Quiet never looked so good.
Brighten up your space.

Our Acoustic Panels are designed to tackle unwanted echoes and sound reverberation, offering an effective and stylish way to improve acoustics across a range of educational environments. Whether you're upgrading a classroom, music room, hall, or corridor, Hush panels help create a quieter, more focused space for learning and wellbeing.

Available in a wide selection of vibrant fabric colours, they allow you to match your existing décor or add a bold new touch to your interiors. The panels don't just look good — they work hard too. Made to order in 9mm, 18mm or 27mm thicknesses, ZenZone panels absorb ambient noise and are pinnable, making them both functional and creative additions to your walls.

Whether you're aiming for a calm, neutral tone or a playful burst of colour, our wide palette makes it easy to achieve the look and acoustic performance you need.

Sonus colour range

Lucia colour range

Era colour range

Cara colour range

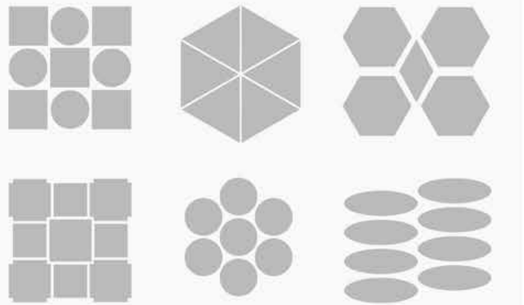
Shape your space with ZenZone®

No two rooms are the same so neither are our panels

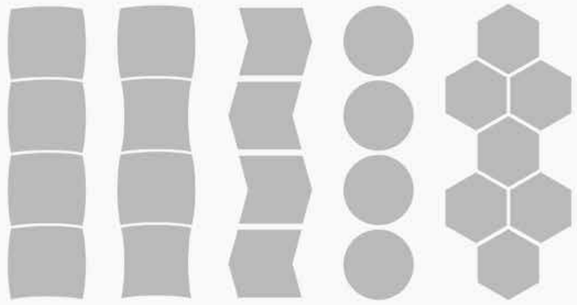
We understand that no two rooms are the same. As a result, ZenZone® panels are available in various shapes and sizes that range from the simplest of forms to the most modern geometrics. ZenZone® has got you covered for your ideal aesthetic. The rafts can be hung individually or in innovative groups to create your own unique design.

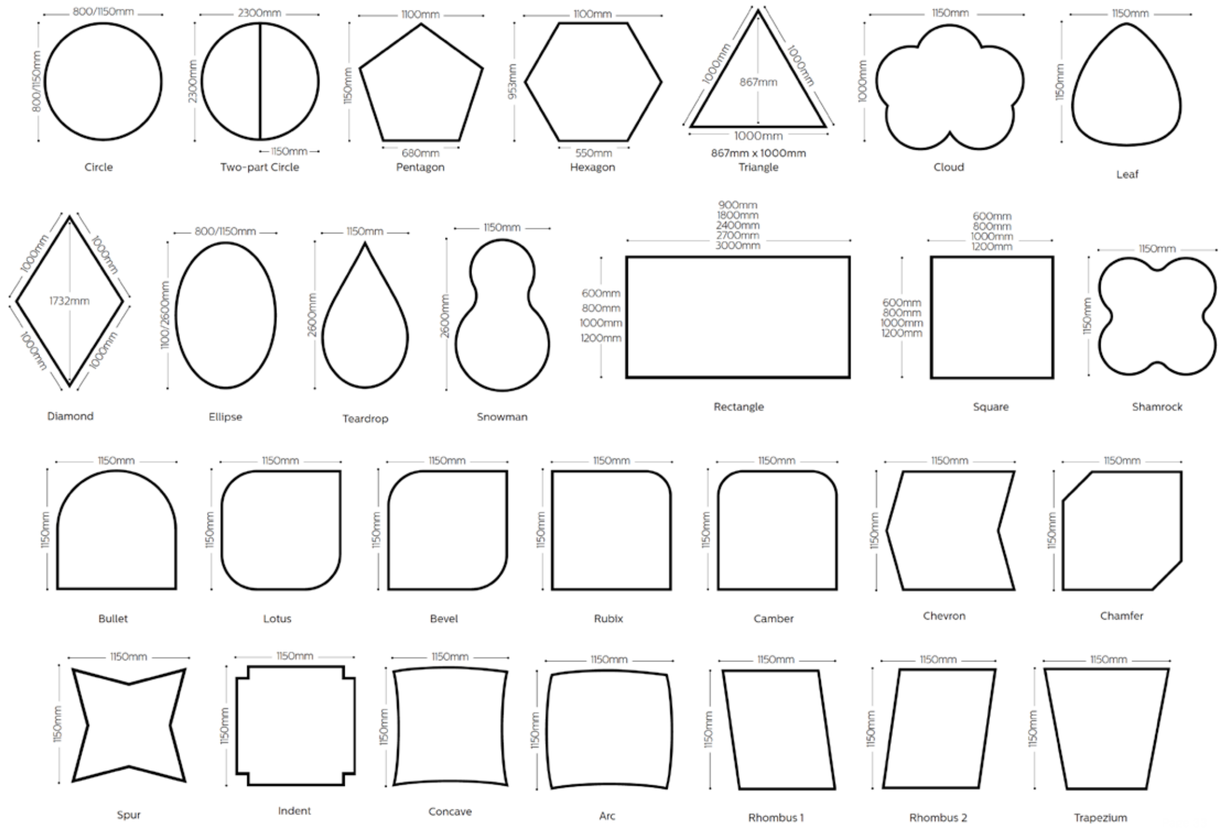
Square grouped formats

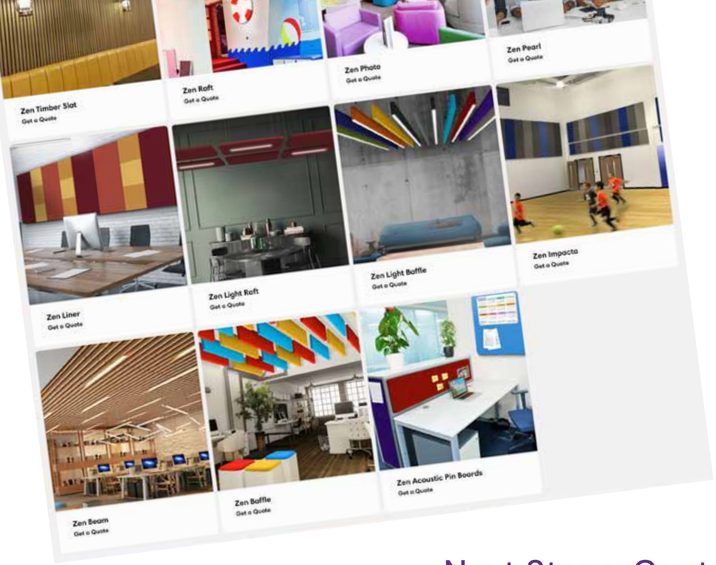
Multi grouped formats



Linear grouped formats







Next Steps: Contact Us for a No-Obligation

Teachers often face acoustic challenges that affect concentration, communication, and classroom calm. The good news is that many issues can be addressed quickly and effectively using high-quality, purpose-designed solutions from the Zen range at Presentation Spaces. These products blend functionality with aesthetics and are ideal for both mainstream and SEND environments

Get in touch with us today for a no-obligation quote and find out how our products and services can make a real difference to your educational or corporate spaces. Our dedicated team is just a phone call or email away, ready to assist you at every stage of your project.

ZenZone

t: 01382 913 913
e: info@presentationspaces.co.uk
w: presentationspaces.co.uk

Efficient installations

When it comes to transforming your presentation spaces, there's no substitute for the expertise and precision offered by our dedicated installation team at Presentation Spaces.

From project inception to final completion, our team of professionals ensures a seamless experience every step of the way. We take care of every detail, coordinating all aspects of your installation, including glassboards, whiteboards, column boards, and projection screens.

Our experts understand that your presentation spaces are a critical part of your organization's success, and we take pride in delivering the highest quality installations that enhance your ability to communicate and collaborate effectively. You can trust us to deliver a smooth, efficient, and visually impressive transformation of your presentation areas.

Dependable delivery

Frustrated by delivery issues with whiteboards, glass boards, and notice boards? So were we. Instead of relying on a network carrier system, we have chosen to use a specialist carrier service.

This ensures that our products reach our customers swiftly and in perfect condition, minimizing the risk of damage during transit. By utilizing a single, dedicated carrier, we can promise reliable and intact delivery in a timely

Boost Productivity and Engagement with our Innovative Display and Presentation Solutions

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w: presentationspaces.co.uk

Presentation Spaces™

Collaborate.
Consult.
Install.