



## **Sensory room Policy**

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## Sensory Room Policy

### 1. Introduction

The sensory room at Heron Academy is designed to provide a safe and therapeutic space for our pupils. It not only provides opportunities for sensory exploration but also provides coping skills for these experiences. These sensory experiences do not stay in the physical space; individuals bring them with them.

- but they also provide coping skills for these experiences
- This policy outlines the guidelines and procedures for effectively using and maintaining the sensory room.

### 2. Purpose of the Sensory Room

- The sensory room aims to provide a calming and stimulating environment for students to regulate their sensory experiences, promote relaxation, and enhance overall well-being.
- It is a tool for supporting students in managing sensory overload and anxiety and promoting self-regulation.
- The sensory room has a range of equipment that enables pupils to develop emotional regulation, communication, and choice-making and supports concentration development.
- Sensory room programs need to be individualised to be fully effective. Pupils must be given control of the sensory equipment in the room to ensure they can meet their sensory needs.
- All pupils using the sensory room will have an individual plan that identifies why they use the space, what equipment they use, and what impact the room has on each pupil.

### 3. Roles and Responsibilities

- **Staff:** Teachers and support staff are responsible for scheduling and supervising student visits to the sensory room and ensuring safety protocols are followed. The attached training document (Appendix A) will train staff in equipment use. This will also be part of the school induction program.
- If the pupil does not independently engage with equipment, the equipment will be demonstrated for them, along with verbal encouragement. If necessary, this process will be repeated.
- Staff to complete an intervention tracker document when the sensory room is in use (Appendix B)

- **Parents/Guardians:** Parents are encouraged to communicate with school staff about their child's sensory needs and provide consent for sensory room use. Consent for using this space will be requested at the beginning of each academic year or when the pupils join the school.

Parents will receive weekly progress reports on the sensory room's impact as part of the reporting cycle.

- **Pupils:** Pupils will be supported responsibly in the sensory room and follow any staff-provided guidelines. They will NOT be left unaccompanied.

#### 4. Implementation Strategies

- **Booking System:** A system will be implemented for staff to schedule sensory room sessions for pupils.
- **Safety Measures:** Regular safety checks and maintenance will ensure a safe environment for pupils. This will include an annual equipment check provided by the equipment suppliers.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** The sensory room's effectiveness will be regularly monitored, and adjustments will be made as necessary.

#### 5. Review Mechanisms

- This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it aligns with the latest UK government legislation and best practices in sensory support. The review will be conducted by the Deputy Head as curriculum lead and include a staff and pupil feedback process.
- Feedback from staff, parents, and pupils will be considered during the review process.

#### 6. Related Procedures

- Any staff member who supports a pupil in the sensory room must be present with them. Staff must have a radio when using the space. A CCTV camera in the sensory room ensures pupils' and staff's safety. A sensory intervention document must be completed whenever a pupil uses the space.
- All damages are to be reported to the facilities team immediately.

## Appendix A:

Sensory room equipment guide

### **Rainbow Ball**

<https://www.spacekraft.co.uk/rainbow-light.html>



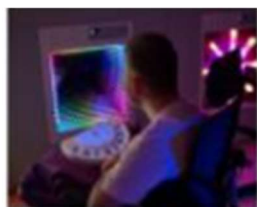
A dome-shaped light fitted with lenses to provide narrow shafts of prismatic illumination - a mirror ball effect taken to the next level, but with no spotlights required. The supplied 8-Way Wireless rechargeable switch can control the range of colours, speed and rotation. Press any of the switches for a different effect -

- Switch 1 - Red: Slow Rotation
- Switch 2 - Yellow: Slow Rotation
- Switch 3 - Green: Slow Rotation
- Switch 4 - Blue: Slow Rotation
- Switch 5 - All Colours: Slow Rotation
- Switch 6 - All Colours: No Rotation
- Switch 7 - All Colours: Fast Rotation
- Switch 8 - All off

The 8-way switch can also be used with any favourite switch—plug it into the 6.3mm jack socket. The Rainbow Light requires a mains power supply and can be used on a desktop or fixed to the ceiling. A fitting service is available at extra cost if needed.

### **Interactive Infinity Tunnel**

<https://www.spacekraft.co.uk/led-interactive-infinity-tunnel.html>



Interactive Infinity Tunnel offers users total control over a never-ending tunnel of ever-changing coloured LED lights, using switches to effect lighting changes in the tunnel. The LED Interactive Infinity Tunnel encourages awareness and develops communication skills. The Tunnel comes with four slimline switches.

Operates 15 different programs:

- Automatic sequence with speed control
- Manual sequence - press any switch. Four-colour build-up - press any switch
- Momentary: single colour - individual colours come on only when the switch is on
- Latched: single colour - individual colours come on when the switch is pressed and stay on until the switch is pressed again
- Latched: build-up - allows build-up of colours each time a switch is pressed; lights stay on until the switch is pressed again
- Momentary: build-up - allows build-up of colours each time a switch is pressed and held on

- Automatic sequence with speed control: two colours at one time
- Manual sequence: forward and reverse - press any switch
- Momentary: full colour - all colours come on only when the switch is on
- Two-switch reward - press any two switches together to light up
- 2 LED manual sequence - press any switch 3 LED manual sequence - press any switch
- 3 LED automatic sequences with speed control
- Automatic sequence: colour cycle with speed control.

### **Bright Sparks Sound Reactive Panel**

<https://www.spacekraft.co.uk/bright-sparks-sound-reactive-panel.html>



An interactive wall panel featuring five clear tubes filled with a continuous row of LED lights, backed by a mirror for more significant visual impact. The sound-sensitive light tubes illuminate from top to bottom in response to any noise, change colour and then fade slowly from bottom to top when the noise stops. Change the settings on the control panel to select a multi-coloured or single-colour display or to alter the sound sensitivity of the built-in microphone. Also compatible with the Space Master Controller, the Bright Sparks Sound Reactive Panel is ideal for cause-and-effect learning and vocal sound work.

### **Colour Creator**

<https://www.spacekraft.co.uk/colourcreator.html>



Colour Creator is an easy-to-use interactive control system that accesses LED lighting to produce a dynamic rainbow of colours for any multi-sensory environment. The system has a wireless remote 8-Way Switch box, enabling users to choose and switch between vibrant colours. Colour Creator is the perfect partner for theme work or cause-and-effect exploration, making it simple to instantly enhance the mood and atmosphere of a room with Momentary, Latched and Timed modes of operation and sequencing. Choose from a selection of different user programs:

- Momentary - the equipment operates if the switch is pressed
- Latched On/Off - the equipment switches on or off each time the switch is pressed
- Timed - the equipment switches on for a predetermined time (up to 60 seconds or 60 minutes)
- Sound to Light (S/L) - any music is picked up by the built-in microphone and converted into a spectrum of coloured light that shines brightly around the room
- Noise (N) - any noise turns on white light momentarily
- Program (P) - 8 dramatic colour programs to choose from
- Rainbow Colour Change - speed adjustable

- Colour Chase - press any button on the 8-Way Switch (time adjustable)
- Stepping Colour

Colour Creator can control any intelligent LED light and is fully compatible with the Space Master Controller.

### **Vibroacoustic Plinth with Sound System**

<https://www.spacekraft.co.uk/vibroacoustic-plinth-with-sound-system.html>



The Vibroacoustic Plinth has a built-in vibroacoustic speaker, which helps with relaxation and wellness. Let the deep sound resonance work through your body and relax.

You are supplied in two parts: the body, the seat, and the speaker seat amplifier. The amplifier unit has an inbuilt speaker with a separate volume to allow the caregiver to adjust the room volume as well as the volume of the Vibro speaker. The amplifier has a Bluetooth option to hook it up to your phone or tablet. Please note that if you are not using Bluetooth, you can connect to any other sound source using the supplied 3.5 mm jack lead.

### **Fibre Optic Wall Carpet**

<https://www.spacekraft.co.uk/fibre-optic-wall-carpet.html>



This black carpet with colour-changing fibre optics woven into the pile creates a stunning shimmering effect. The rug can be wall-mounted vertically or horizontally, making it accessible for visual and tactile exploration. It is edged with Softplay foam and fabric, so there are no hard edges.

### **Ripple Light**

<https://www.spacekraft.co.uk/ripple-light.html>



An LED Spotlight projects a colourful display of rippling lights, which can be used as water, fire, or cloud effects. A full range of ripple effects is controlled with the supplied 8-Way Wireless Rechargeable Switch - press any one of the switches for a different effect:

- Switch 1 - Orange slow ripple
- Switch 2 - Orange fast ripple

- Switch 3 - Yellow slow ripple
- Switch 4 - Blue slow ripple
- Switch 5 - Blue fast ripple
- Switch 6 - White medium ripple
- Switch 7 - All colours ripple
- Switch 8 - Off

The 8-way switch can also be used with any favourite switch - plug into the 6.3mm jack socket on the rear. A small control box mainly powers the Ripple Light and can be wall - or ceiling-mounted with the supplied bracket.

### **Musical Touch Wall**

<https://www.spacekraft.co.uk/musical-touch-wall.html>



It uses touchscreen technology on a big scale. The glass panel lets users brush their hands or parts of their body over the display to interact with light and sound. With different programs to explore, the Musical Touch Wall is a fabulous magical wall panel that lights up with an ever-changing spectrum of coloured LED lights. Brush your hand over the Musical Touch Wall to receive a rainbow wash of colour and an auditory reward. It is ideal for tracking, encouraging communication and colour recognition.

Operates the following programs:

- Trails: Paint with light - wherever you move your hand, the light follows
  - Crosses: Touch the screen to create a cross (x)
  - Plus: Touch the screen to create a plus (+)
  - Radar: Touch the screen to create a radar-like swirl effect
  - Squares: Touch the screen to create squares
  - Circles: Touch the screen to create circles
  - Numbers: Touch the screen to count to 9 - each touch of the screen increases by one. You will see each number as well as hear the number spoken.
  - Snake: Touch the end of the moving snake and gain a reward
  - Shapes: Touch the screen and create shapes
  - Ripple: Touch the screen to create a wave of coloured ripples across the screen
- Please note that the soft play stand on some images is for display purposes only and is not included.



### Swing Arm Fibre Optic Harness & Light Source

<https://www.spacekraft.co.uk/swing-arm-fibre-optic-harness.html>

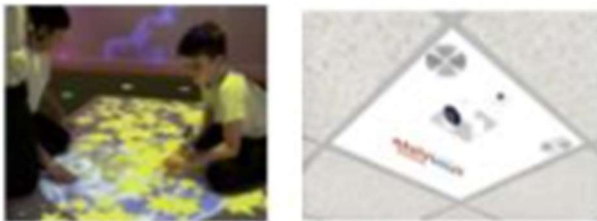


A spray of acrylic fibres emits light that constantly changes colour along its length. It is installed on a swing arm that rotates through 180°, enabling the fibre optics to be moved closer to a user and safely out of the way when not in use.

The changing colours encourage focus of attention and provide visual stimulation, which is particularly useful for the partially sighted. It is safe to handle and easy to clean with mild detergent and a damp cloth.

### Immersive System - Ceiling Fixed

<https://www.spacekraft.co.uk/multi-sensory-solutions-4285.html>



You can move parts of your body and interact with the projected images. The rubberised, sturdy remote control has 300 themes that can be easily changed.

This version is designed to sit in a suspended ceiling grid. Remove the 600 x 600 mm tile and fix it in place. It will also repair any conventional ceiling. Connect to a mains supply, and it's ready to use.

Complete with a hard-wearing rubberised remote-control unit. Extremely easy to use with no specialised training required.

It has integral speakers, but an additional amplifier can be connected if required. The projector works best when projected on a white surface, so a white roll-out screen is optional. It comes with 300 different apps on board.

## Appendix B:

### Sensory intervention tracking sheet

Pupils name:

Date/ Time (20 mins Max)	Antecedent (Add letters)	Observed behaviour (Add number)	Sensory intervention (Add equipment user)	Used	Response to intervention	Staff initials

Antecedent key: Low attention (LA), Transition (T), Demand (D), Challenging task (CT), Denied access (DA), other (name)

Observed behaviour key: 1. Distracted/Staring into space, 2. Wiggling/Not sitting still, 3. Destructive behaviour, 4. Fidgeting with everything, 5. Falling asleep, 6. Aggressive behaviour, 7. Throwing objects, 8. Crying, 9. Pulling clothing/people, 10. Other (name)

USED key: Sensory equipment key: Rainbow ball (RB), Interactive infinity tunnel (IT), bright sparks (sound reaction panel) (BS), colour creator (CC), vibroacoustic plinth (VP), fibre optic wall carpet (WC), ripple light (RL)

How Used: Visually, focusing attention, tactile exploration, auditory, passively, actively (choice making), for relaxation and well-being, switch use, enhancement of communication skills, cause and effect, stimulation of all senses, affective, emotional development in line with zones of regulation, self-determination, and peer interaction, Other