

UNIQUE IDEAS FOR A UNIQUE SITE



ST NICHOLAS PARK, BRIGHTON

Client:	Brighton & Hove Council
Address:	Church Street, Brighton and Hove, Brighton BN1 3LJ
Budget:	£120,000
Age Range:	Toddlers, Juniors
Ranges:	Kanope, Diabolo, Inclusive, Traditional, Dynamic
Surfacing:	Wetpour

Project Story: Brighton & Hove City Council issued a £180,000 tender for two playground sites, Turner Park and St Nicholas Park. A budget of £120,000 was allocated to St Nicholas Park, a particularly unique playground located within a church graveyard. The existing playground had poor accessibility, with many items installed in bark and sand, and lacked inclusivity for users with special needs. The council sought innovative solutions to create a fully accessible, inclusive, and engaging play space for city centre residents.

The playground was in need of a complete transformation to better serve the diverse needs of the community. By incorporating creative design elements and innovative equipment, we aimed to revitalise the space and establish it as a key destination for families in Brighton.



We're thrilled to see the new playground at St Nicholas Park come to life, providing a fantastic space for children and families. We're passionate about creating inclusive, engaging play areas, and it's wonderful to see the community enjoying this transformation.



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St Nicholas Park is a unique site situated next to an historic church in central Brighton. Its enclosed setting, surrounded by high walls and narrow pedestrian entrances, created logistical challenges for equipment transportation and installation. The site's location on a bus route with minimal parking added further complexity.



Proludic's Solutions

To address accessibility and inclusivity concerns, Proludic implemented the following key improvements:

- **Expanded Swing Capacity:** Replacing a two-bay swing with a new setup featuring four flat seats, two cradle seats and a giant pod swing capable of seating up to six users or accommodating a disabled child lying next to their carer.
- **Inclusive Seesaw (J987):** Introducing a unique seesaw design with space for two wheelchair users.
- **Montessori-inspired Ground Graphics:** Installing interactive and imaginative play features on the ground surface.
- **Kanopé Multi Play Unit (J5609):** Providing elevated play opportunities, including Japanese Steps leading to a crawl tunnel, alongside a Kanope net climber for social and active play.

Challenges & Solutions

- **Difficult Access:** The playground's location next to St. Nicholas Church with high surrounding walls and narrow pedestrian entrances required innovative logistical solutions.
- Implemented a traffic management plan and scheduled deliveries outside peak hours.
- A small dumper truck was used with a tight turning circle to navigate the restricted entrances.



- Delivered sand and bark in smaller sacks, which were then transported via the dumper truck.
- **Historical Site Considerations:** Given the site's religious location, careful excavation methods were essential.
- Conducted thorough site scans before digging commenced.
- Used hand digging techniques where necessary to avoid disturbing potential historical items.



Conclusion

The St Nicholas Park playground renovation successfully transformed an outdated and inaccessible play area into a vibrant, inclusive space for the Brighton community to enjoy. Overcoming significant logistical challenges, Proludic delivered a unique and imaginative playground that aligns with the site's heritage while prioritising accessibility for all children.

