

A new chapter of school dining is unfolding

Due to the unprecedented demand for primary school places and the arrival of the Universal Infant **Free School Meals** scheme, schools are more pushed than ever to provide adequate dining facilities for their pupils.

A primary school in Aylesbury recently completed the build of a new multi-use school hall. Using Versa's innovative Wall Pocket system, the sports hall not only boasts a dual-zone climbing wall, but also doubles as a dining hall for the pupils.

The Wall Pocket system is ideal for multi-function halls, or where the space to store dining furniture is a problem. The simply-installed folding tables and benches are housed within a neat 'pocket' which is installed against, or into, the hall's wall, hence the name Wall Pocket.

When required, the tables and benches can be effortlessly unfolded from the wall to provide a safe and hygienic dining environment. And when no longer required, they can be put away in moments.

It takes around eight minutes for the six double Wall Pockets - which seat approximately 240 pupils - to be set out for dinner; a massive time saving on their previous furniture. This time saving means the hall can be in use as a sports facility for longer each day, so it's really proving its usefulness. In addition, the need for fewer staff to set-up is saving the school money every day; their system will ultimately pay for itself! They will also be using their Wall Pocket system for lectures and other hall events, as the tables and benches can be set out independently of each other, so if required the Wall Pocket benches can be used on their own – perfect for school assemblies.

“The pressure on schools to get the most out of their hall means that anything that increases capacity, saves on the staff-time cost of setting out traditional furniture, or releases existing storage areas for other uses, is always welcome” said a Versa spokesman. “We have a wide range of space-efficient dining solutions; we encourage schools to talk to us about their space issues and we'll work with them to make the best use of their space”.

