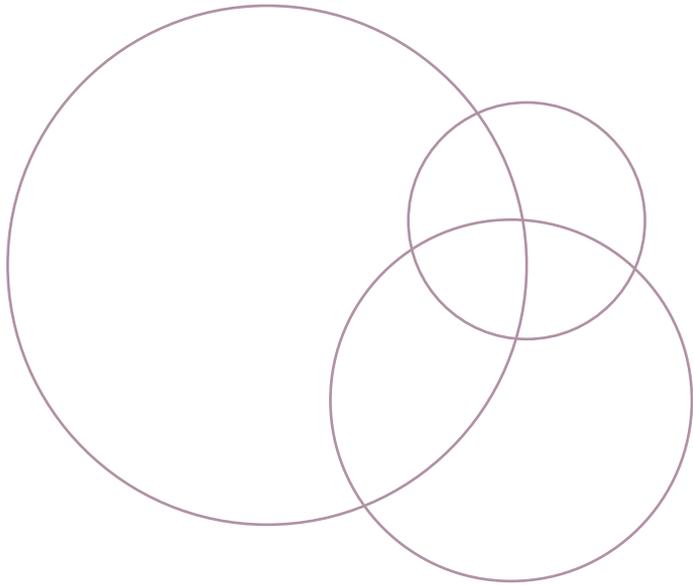


Securing Schools for Today and into the Future

Jacksons



Jacksons Fencing
Stowting Common
Ashford Kent
TN25 6BN

E: security@jacksons-fencing.co.uk
T: 01233 750 393

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Introduction

Security and safety in schools is a highly emotive subject and one which is never far from the conscience of the head teacher, facilities team, governing body and LEA who all have roles to play in the implementation of an effective school security strategy.

Schools have a basic requirement to safely contain students in their care during school hours, keeping them protected from unwanted intruders and away from any danger within the confines of the grounds. Clearly, effective perimeter security and a well thought out access control strategy have an important role to play in responding to these concerns.

According to Ofsted's 'Safeguarding in schools: best practice', safeguarding arrangements should also extend to reviewing the site security measures and reviewing the physical environment to ensure the safety and wellbeing of pupils is protected. It takes just one horrific incident to provide a sharp reminder of the unacceptably high price to be paid if school security fails ...

After hours the school also needs to be able to 'lock-down' to deter acts of vandalism, theft, concealment and even arson - according to the London Fire Brigade nationally, every year one in eight schools suffer a serious arson attack and the cost of school fires is around a staggering £65 million.

Most recently, the high cost of energy and growing demand for steel in developing countries is thought to be the catalyst behind an outbreak of steel thefts, said to be costing the economy £770 million every year (according to the Association of Chief Police Officers). Thieves across the country have been targeting public buildings, including schools, looking for valuable steel to scrap.

“It takes just one horrific incident to provide a sharp reminder of the unacceptably high price to be paid if school security fails”

How to achieve a secure perimeter?

Physical perimeter security measures and effective access control are at the heart of any successful school security programme but creating a safe and secure school environment requires significant planning and key features need to be designed into the overall perimeter security architecture. There is no benefit to be derived from installing an impressive security fence and gates at the front of the school if it is possible for intruders to access the grounds via an unprotected entry point elsewhere on the site. Equally, it is imperative that all factors are taken into consideration which might impact on the creation of a secure physical frontline defence. For example, if some pupils gain access to the school via a local footpath it will be important to extend the security architecture to include this access route. Equally it may not be financially viable to fence the entire perimeter, in which case, a risk assessment will highlight those areas that can be fenced to maximum effect.

Fit for purpose physical perimeter security measures combined with effective access control should form the cornerstone of any school security upgrade. Robust defensive planting in conjunction with the right choice of perimeter fence can act as an additional deterrent and can also help meet the 'aesthetic' planning requirements.

Care also needs to be taken to ensure that the fence line is clear from over hanging branches, storage bins or anything that could be construed as a potential climbing aid.

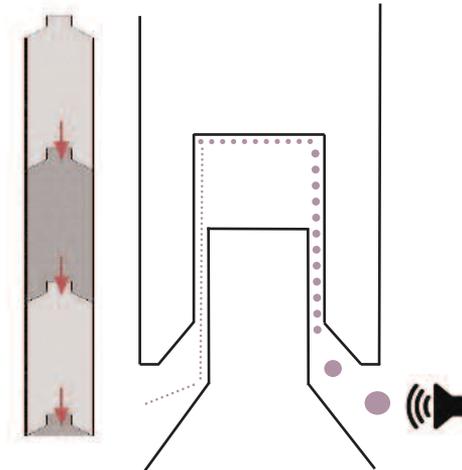
Noise Pollution

Noise pollution is often a consideration around schools both with road/rail noise entering, and playground noise escaping into the neighbourhood. In these situations the school needs a fencing solution that also offers noise reduction capabilities. Jakoustic is a revolutionary barrier system that combines outstanding noise reduction characteristics (as much as 32 decibels) with security and high privacy performance.

Acoustic fencing may also be required to create a classroom conducive to fostering good listening skills by helping to reduce the distraction of incoming ambient noise from neighbouring busy roads/railway lines or construction sites.

How does acoustic fencing work?

The “Jakoustic” boards used in the fencing feature an interlocking “vee” coupled with a tongue and groove. This profile eliminates gaps that the sound will easily travel through.





Common mistakes

There are many ways to achieve a good fence solution only for it to be let down by an unprofessional and ill-thought out installation.



12 inch gate under the gate



Image shows investment in secure steel fencing which is negated by presence of old timber fencing that is easily penetrable.

Making a safe gate

When you are considering automation and access control, it is vital that the completed installation meets with current safety legislation, specifically the EU Machinery directive 98/37/EC and 2006/42/EC, both for your school's peace of mind and to avoid possible costly litigation. Jacksons offers a choice of different gate and automation products to suit the varying needs of its broad base of customers. From high security applications to sites, which experience a regular flow of traffic is able to create a complete perimeter security systems to match individual site requirements. Our quality gates are constructed from steel, timber or a combination of both materials. All our automation comes with a 25-month guarantee (subject to a service contract being taken out before the end of the first year).

The number of entrances to a school site should always be reduced to a practical minimum. Vehicles and pedestrians should be segregated but directed through one main entry and exit. Siting car parks, footpaths and drop off / pick up points in appropriate locations can help to achieve this. On larger sites it is usually advisable to consider pedestrian gates and turnstiles with dedicated access control and management systems.



How to create a safe play area

The importance of having play areas for children is well documented, it encourages them to develop and grow, meet new people, problem solve and helps them learn to play on their own or with others. Playgrounds offer the opportunity to explore and encourages social growth. Exciting play areas will distract children away from much more hazardous locations.

What can be done to reduce playground accidents?

Play area layout must be designed so equipment and activities do not interfere with each other
 Safe access for the disabled access must be taken into consideration
 Play area must be designed to offer age appropriate activities
 Fencing must feature adequate spacing between pales to prevent entrapment of limbs.

Common mistakes



Inadequate spacing between pales, limbs could get trapped



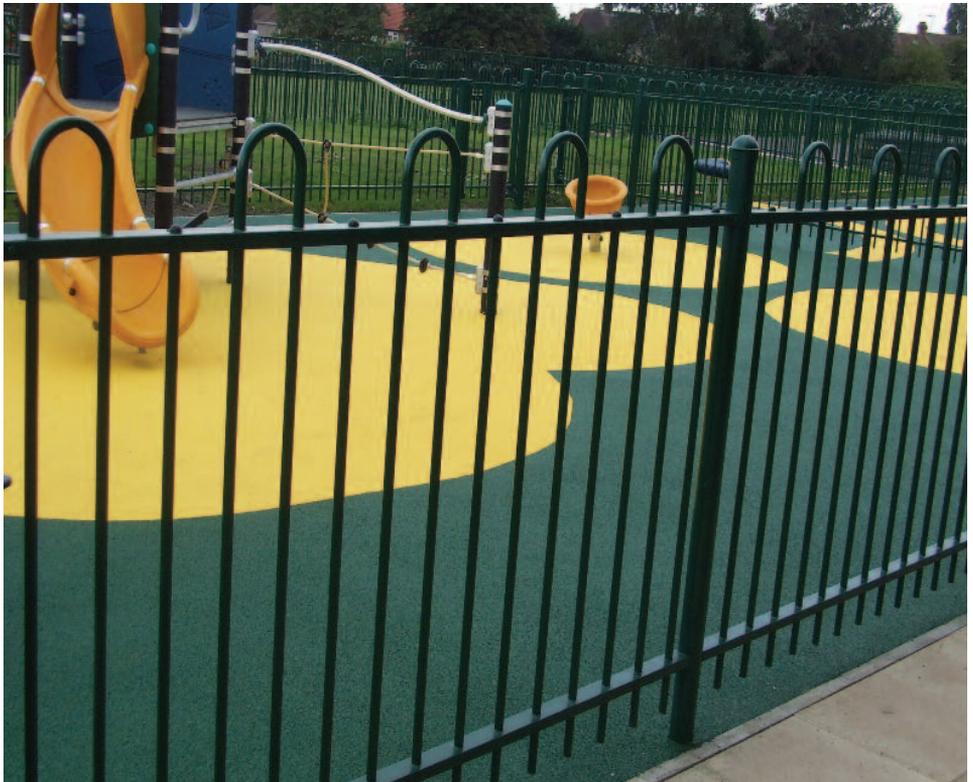
Rotting timber can cause splinters



Risk of entrapment in gate hinge

Things to consider

- Minimum of 12mm is recommended between the gate and the post
- Clearance of the gate between 60-110mm - to reduce foot injuries
- We advise that the gate should be a different colour to identify the exit



Sports areas

If you are considering creating a sports area or simply upgrading an existing one, it is important to take into consideration the type of sport that will be played and the impact involved to ensure the right fencing is selected to safeguard the players and spectators.



Buying responsibly

With the on-going pressure on school budgets, it is imperative that any investment in fencing and access control measures represents a responsible use of public funds. Whenever possible, schools should take a long-term view on investment in capital purchases and select products which offer a long life expectancy giving a low life time cost. All Jacksons timber and steel fencing and gates are manufactured in the UK and are designed to deliver fitness for purpose, low maintenance and carry class leading 25 year guarantees to provide lowest lifetime cost. And it's not just the cost in monetary terms that must be assessed. Increasingly schools are being required to demonstrate sound environmental practice to protect the earth's finite resources. Jacksons Fencing has achieved certification under the environmental chain-of-custody schemes of both the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) and PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) for its timber products.

“low maintenance and carry class leading 25 year guarantees”



Installation

Schedule installation to suit

It is also worth bearing in mind the need to factor in timing considerations – most schools will be keen to undertake any infrastructure work during the school holidays but these periods can become notoriously busy for contractors working in the public sector, so it pays to plan ahead.

Expert fence and gate installation

At Jacksons we are proud of our quality installation service, our teams are CSCS certified and CRB cleared to carry out work around schools, care homes and other institutions for the vulnerable and less able which are the subject of vetting and approval by the Independent Safeguarding Authority.

You can design the best perimeter security solution, but ultimately, it will only be as strong as its weakest component. Equally, you only get one chance to make a good first impression. That's why we offer a nationwide installation service ensuring that both the integrity of our product and your image is maintained through to the completion of a project.

For more information on any of the topic discussed in this document
please call us on 0800 41 43 43 or email security@jacksons-fencing.co.uk

Jacksons

www.jacksons-security.co.uk