

CASE STUDY



Dene House Primary School



Outdoor Play Project Case Study

Improving physical activity, confidence, and learning readiness

Project Overview

Dene House Primary School

Location: Northumberland

Type: Primary School



Over the past 18–24 months, the school has invested in improving outdoor play provision as part of a national accreditation process.

A key requirement was to provide meaningful climbing and swinging opportunities, which were previously limited.

The Challenge

The school lacked natural climbing opportunities such as trees, and existing wooden equipment had become too easy for pupils to master.

This meant pupils were no longer being physically challenged or developing key movement skills during playtime.

Key Challenge

Limited challenge and reduced opportunities for physical development

The Solution

A freestanding monkey bar system was installed to introduce structured climbing challenges and support physical development across all age groups.

- Designed to introduce progressive climbing challenges
- Suitable for a wide range of pupil abilities
- Installed with minimal disruption
- Aligned with school values around collaboration and development



The Impact

“Pupils are more focused, confident, and ready to learn.”

Pupils quickly took ownership of the equipment, creating their own safety rules and even introducing a buddy system to support each other while climbing.

The school also observed strong engagement across all pupils, with particularly high participation from girls.

“What impressed us most was how pupils immediately took ownership, creating their own safety rules and supporting each other.”

Key Outcomes

- Increased pupil engagement during playtime
- Improved confidence across all ability levels
- Development of upper body strength and coordination
- Strong peer support and teamwork (buddy system)
- Pupils returning to class more regulated and ready to learn

The physical activity supports both behavioural regulation and classroom focus.

Observed across all pupils, with particularly strong engagement and participation.

“The physical activity helps pupils regulate their energy and return to class ready to learn.”

Installation & Experience

Communication throughout the project was excellent, and installation support exceeded expectations. The process was smooth, professional, and highly supportive at every stage.

“The installation support exceeded our expectations and the whole process was smooth and professional.”

“My advice is simple: go for it. There’s no need to look elsewhere.”

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