



Creating vibrant, sustainable classrooms for St Francis School in Adelaide

With interiors designed to stimulate and encourage creativity, St Francis School in Lockleys Adelaide, chose Tarkett flooring for their purpose-built junior primary building.

'Our goal for this school project was to create a learning environment that feels both inviting and functional for students,' says Sarah Ryan, the school's Work Health Safety Coordinator, speaking on behalf of Phil Schultz, Principal of St Francis School.

'We wanted the carpet to be durable and comfortable underfoot, ensuring it could withstand daily use while still looking great. The interior needed to be contemporary and vibrant, with colours that clearly define different areas within the learning spaces, making it easier for students to navigate and focus.'

Using colour to create engaging learning environments

The building, designed by architects SMFA, includes general learning classrooms, student common areas, withdrawal spaces, small group learning pods, a science room, upgraded amenities and outdoor learning spaces.

'The design vision was "fun and dynamic," incorporating vibrant colours to enhance student engagement,' says Natasha Matulesya, Associate Interior Designer at SMFA.

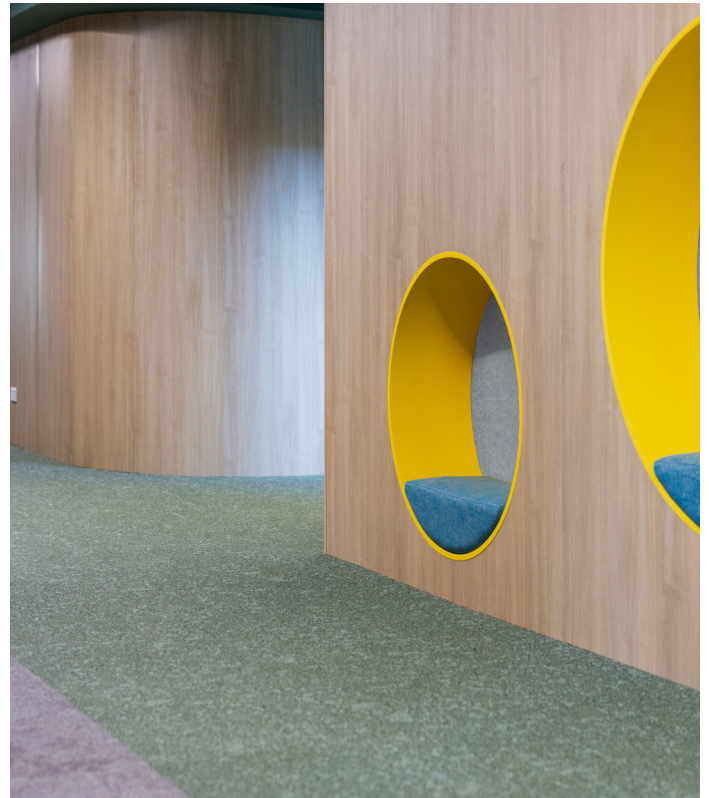
'In addition to aesthetics and functionality, the school placed a strong emphasis on sustainability – the brief highlighted the need for environmentally responsible materials that aligned with the school's commitment to sustainable practices.'

All of this made DESSO® Recharge and Retrace Carpet Tiles from Tarkett's Origin Collection, the ideal flooring solution for the classrooms, common areas and corridors. 'Tarkett's product turned out to be an excellent fit for this project,' Sarah agrees. 'The sustainable features of the DESSO® range align perfectly with our commitment to environmentally friendly choices.'

DESSO® Carpet Tiles for true sustainability

Cradle-to-Cradle Silver Level Certified, the DESSO® Recharge and Retrace range of heavy-duty Carpet Tiles are a truly circular product, manufactured to be easily disassembled at end of life, allowing components to be recycled into raw materials for the production of new Carpet Tiles.

This circularity is reflected in the look, which evokes the upcycled chalk used in the manufacture of the EcoBase backing, with irregularity and textural variation woven in.



Both Recharge and Retrace share a common colour palette, making them a perfect combination for creating inspirational designs.

'Our design concept centred on creating a vibrant and contemporary environment that would inspire and support students in their learning journey,' notes Natasha. 'The use of dynamic colours from the DESSO® range were intended to foster a fun and engaging atmosphere, contributing to both the visual appeal and functionality of the spaces.'

Materials with acoustic performance and durability

While the visual elements of the design were very important, practical considerations also played a large part in choosing DESSO® Carpet Tiles, which are available with SoundMaster Thrive acoustic backing.

'The Carpet Tiles not only improve acoustics, reducing noise for a calmer atmosphere, but also provide a soft, safe surface that enhances comfort,' says Sarah. 'Ultimately, we aimed to create a space where students feel both inspired and supported in their learning journey. Additionally, the improved aesthetics have contributed to a stronger sense of school pride among students and staff.'

Durability was also critical, as the flooring needed to withstand the daily demands of a school environment, ensuring it would remain a long-lasting and valuable investment.

'Classroom areas needed flooring that was both comfortable and conducive to learning, with acoustics playing a key role in minimising noise disruption. Common areas and corridors required highly durable flooring that could withstand heavy foot traffic while maintaining its appearance.' Says Natasha.

'As designers, we have a responsibility to select products that are sustainable and have a low environmental impact. Tarkett's commitment to sustainability, demonstrated through their Cradle-to-Cradle certification, made their product the ideal choice for this application. This certification ensures that products are developed with a focus on circular economy principles, minimising waste, and carbon footprint.'

Expert installation created a great result for the school

For the installation, Adelaide's Barclay Commercial provided the expertise needed to bring the Carpet Tiles together and realise the designers' vision.

'There were some complex colours and patterns brought into the design that required some planning for the installation,' says director Nathan Barclay. 'We planned the space and started with the big areas first, checking they were nice and straight, and then moved to the smaller, outlying areas from there.'

'The DESSO® product has a nice feel to it, with a softness on the backing that makes for an easier installation. We know the tiles stay straight, and deliver great seamability – we know and expect this preciseness from Tarkett.'



'This is the first job we've done for the school,' Nathan continues. 'The installation was on new concrete, good base flooring, so the end result was excellent.'

For Sarah and St Francis School, the combination of product, design and installation has yielded impressive results. 'This project was a collaborative effort that successfully brought together functionality and aesthetics to create an inspiring learning space. From the initial design stages to the final installation, every detail was carefully considered to meet the specific needs of the school. The feedback from both staff and students has been overwhelmingly positive.'

Project: St Francis Lockley's

Product: DESSO® Recharge & Retrace

Designer: SMFA

Installation: Barclay Commercial

Photography: SMFA