



### At a glance

#### Location

Crewe  
Cheshire

#### The challenge

To provide a quiet retreat and inspirational outdoor learning space for young learners with a wide range of academic needs.

#### The solution

SOLARDOME<sup>®</sup> Retreat

#### Dome specification

- Diameter 6.27m / 20'07"
- Height 3.47m / 11'05"
- Area 28.6m<sup>2</sup>
- Volume 69m<sup>3</sup>

### Solardome<sup>®</sup> geodesic dome delivers first-class outdoor space to pupils with diverse learning needs.

Wistaston Academy, based in Crewe, were looking for a multi-purpose structure to enhance learning experiences and emotional wellbeing among the children.

The primary and nursery school, which focusses on a broad and balanced education that meets the needs of each pupil, first showed interest in the Growing Schools range in 2018.

### A meaningful addition

Headteacher Dominique Griffiths and her team were tasked with finding an inspirational outdoor structure as a breakaway learning and relaxing space for the children.

They were impressed with the unique geodesic shape and calming nature of the glasshouse range, and chose the Solardome<sup>®</sup> Retreat, which, at 29m<sup>2</sup>, is able to hold a full class of pupils.

Wistaston's Site Manager James Lea said: "The dome is truly impressive and a fantastic addition to the school".

## Quiet retreat

A key requirement for the school was to deliver a safe, peaceful space for their pupils, some of whom contend with learning difficulties.

“The dome provides a calm environment and allows children to access our outdoor provision whilst meeting their individual needs – particularly at unstructured periods, such as break times,” said James.

“It really lives up to its name as it provides a quiet retreat for children with a range of learning requirements,” he added.

Meanwhile, the staff were pleased to find a structure that could double up as an outdoor classroom for more focussed academic activities.

“As the dome can accommodate 30 pupils, we can utilise this amazing resource for learning outside of the classroom,” he said.



## More information

Contact us to find out more about our glasshouses and how they can help you get the most out of your school, college or university grounds.

**Tel: + 44 (0)23 8066 7890**

**Email: [sales@solardome.co.uk](mailto:sales@solardome.co.uk)**

## A smooth process

James and his team chose to install the dome themselves, but still received extensive support from Solardome, from technical consultation through to delivery.

“The Solardome team provided an excellent service. The parts are of premium quality and came with easy-to-follow instructions and supporting images and documentation. The resulting structure is truly impressive,” said James.

The dome was an instant hit and, despite some initiatives being hampered by COVID-19, will deliver a cutting-edge outdoor curriculum for many years to come.

“We are proud that we were able to bring the Solardome® Retreat to our school,” he added.

**“The Solardome is a quiet retreat for children with a range of learning needs. It provides a calm environment and allows children to access our outdoor provision whilst meeting their individual needs – particularly at unstructured times such as break and lunch times.**

**Being able to accommodate up to 30 pupils, a class of children will be able to utilise this amazing resource for learning outside of the classroom.”**

**James Lea**

Wistaston Academy

*If you own a Solardome® geodesic dome, we'd love to hear from you! Email your pictures to [marketing@solardome.co.uk](mailto:marketing@solardome.co.uk) or share them on social media, using the hashtag **#SolardomeClub**.*