

Danecourt Special School

Case Study

Location

Gillingham, Kent, UK

Project

Osborne Technologies' Aurora immersive classroom and multi-sensory rooms for SEN education

Date

November 2025

Product

x1 Immersive classroom
x3 Multi-sensory rooms



About Danecourt Special School

Danecourt Special School, part of the Maritime Academy Trust, is a primary school dedicated to supporting children with special educational needs. The school provides a nurturing and inclusive environment where every child is encouraged to reach their full potential. With 160 staff members, the team at Danecourt is committed to creating innovative and engaging learning experiences that meet the individual needs of their pupils.

The opportunity

The idea for an immersive classroom at Danecourt began in 2000 when staff saw an online demonstration showcasing the potential of immersive learning environments. The school quickly recognised the opportunity to enhance its curriculum and began fundraising to bring the concept to life. The vision was to use immersive technology to support communication, develop oracy, and help pupils build functional life skills through safe, simulated experiences before venturing into real-world settings.

Alongside immersive learning, there was a clear need for bespoke sensory rooms that could support emotional regulation, sensory exploration, and wellbeing for pupils with a wide range of needs. Danecourt wanted calm, safe spaces where children could identify and respond to their sensory preferences, helping them feel settled, confident, and ready to learn.

The process

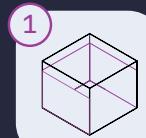
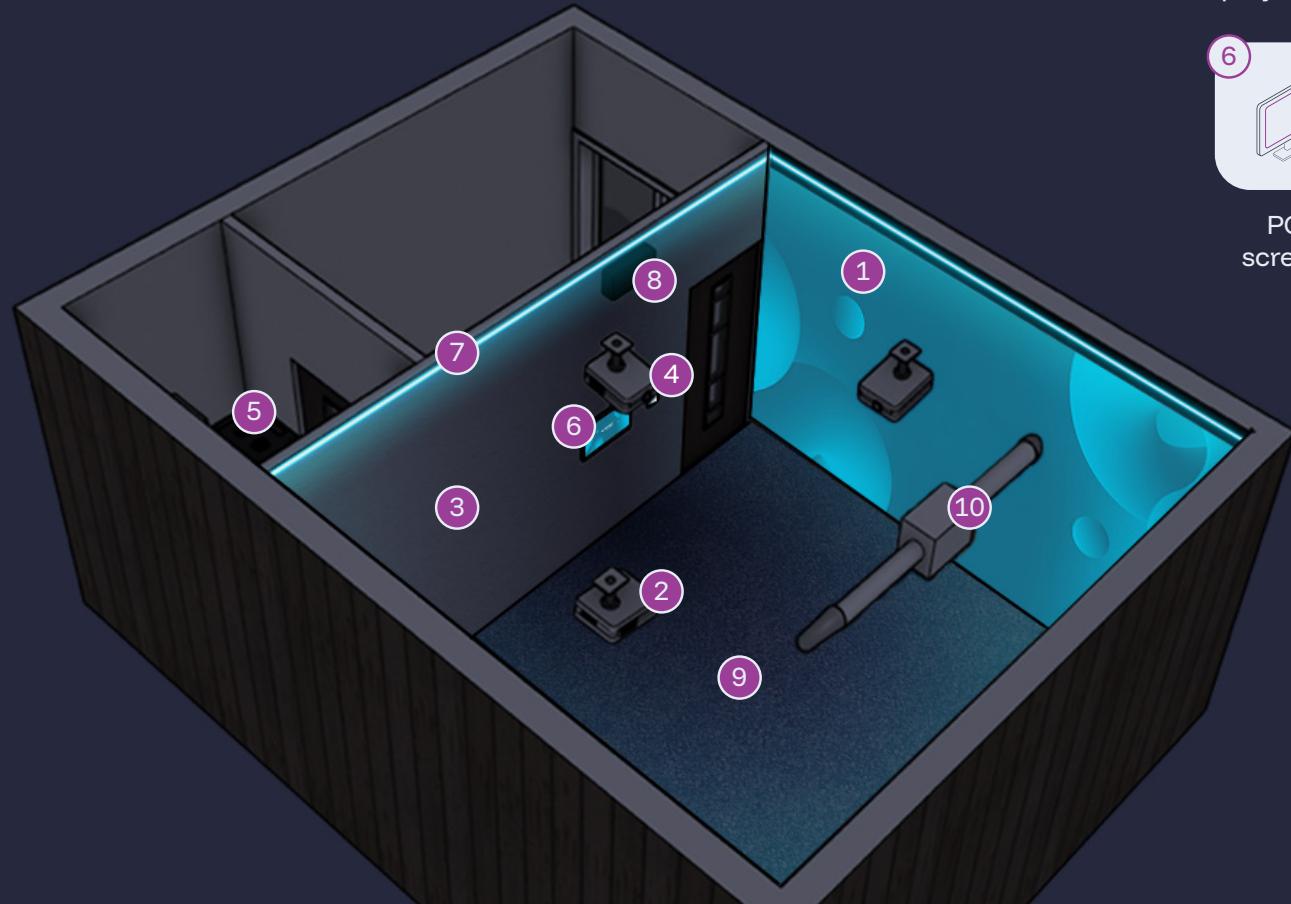
Danecourt chose Aurora for their reputation, high-quality installations, and user-friendly technology. The Aurora tablet control system was a key factor, offering staff simple and intuitive control of every room's sensory and immersive elements.

The design process was collaborative and straightforward, with Aurora's team working closely with staff to tailor each space to the specific needs of different cohorts. Installation of all four rooms was carried out smoothly by Aurora's DBS-checked professionals, ensuring minimal disruption to the school's daily routine. The team's flexibility and responsiveness were praised, particularly their willingness to make last-minute adjustments and share advice from other schools using similar technology.

The solution

The completed project includes one immersive classroom and three multi-sensory rooms, each designed with a distinct purpose and tailored to the pupils who use them. All spaces are controlled via a tablet-based app, making them quick and easy to set up based on individual sensory preferences.

The immersive room plans



Three wall projection



Projectors x3



Audio system



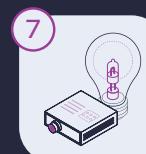
Aurora console



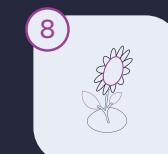
Control unit hardware



PC screen



Dynamic lighting



Multi-scent diffuser



Underfloor vibration



Wind machine

The immersive room plans

As part of the school's vision for a modern, inclusive, and innovative learning environment, Aurora collaborated with a modular build company to deliver a purpose-built outdoor structure housing the immersive classroom. The partnership ensured the space was safe, flexible, and fully integrated with the immersive technology.

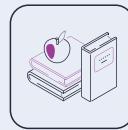


The immersive classroom has been used for a variety of learning experiences and themed activities:



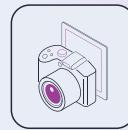
Curriculum Launches

Each term's new topic begins in the immersive room, such as the "Let's Explore!" theme where pupils virtually travel the world, experiencing different cultures, music, and landmarks.



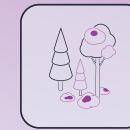
Immersive Storytelling

For autistic pupils with complex communication needs, stories like The Gruffalo and Stick Man came alive, helping vocal engagement and emotional connection.



Memorable Experiences

Classes enjoy controlled firework shows and bonfire scenes, allowing students to participate calmly and safely without the unpredictability of real noise.



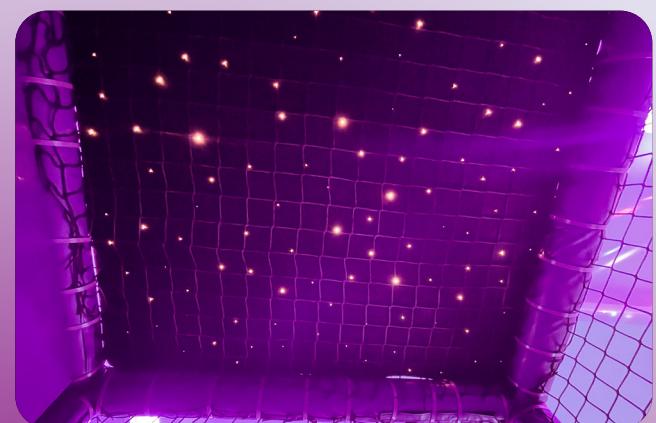
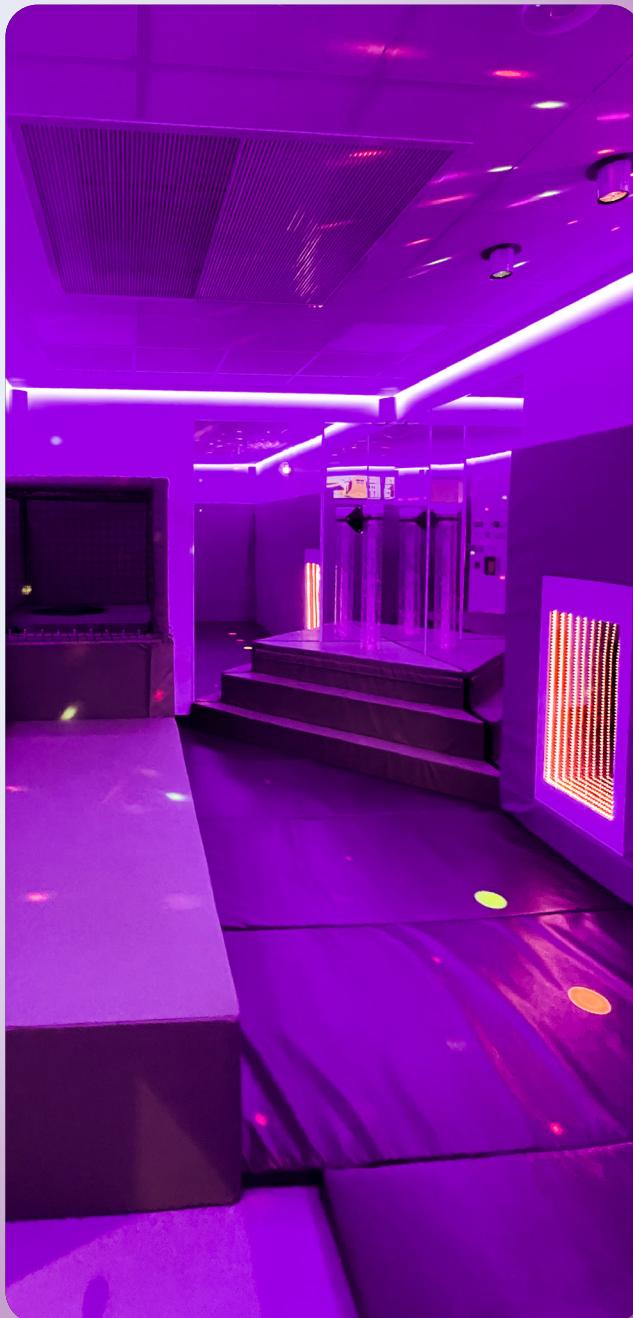
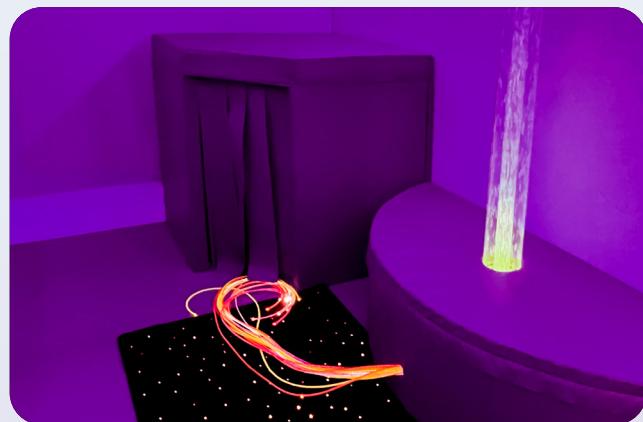
Winter Wonderland

Children explored a magical snowy environment, complete with festive sights and sounds, and enjoyed a special visit from Father Christmas in an on-site Santa's Grotto.

The sensory rooms have supported a wide range of sensory-rich experiences:

The sensory rooms offer calm, safe spaces that support emotional regulation and help children identify their sensory preferences. Each room is tailored to specific groups of pupils, providing opportunities for sensory exploration and relaxation.





The results

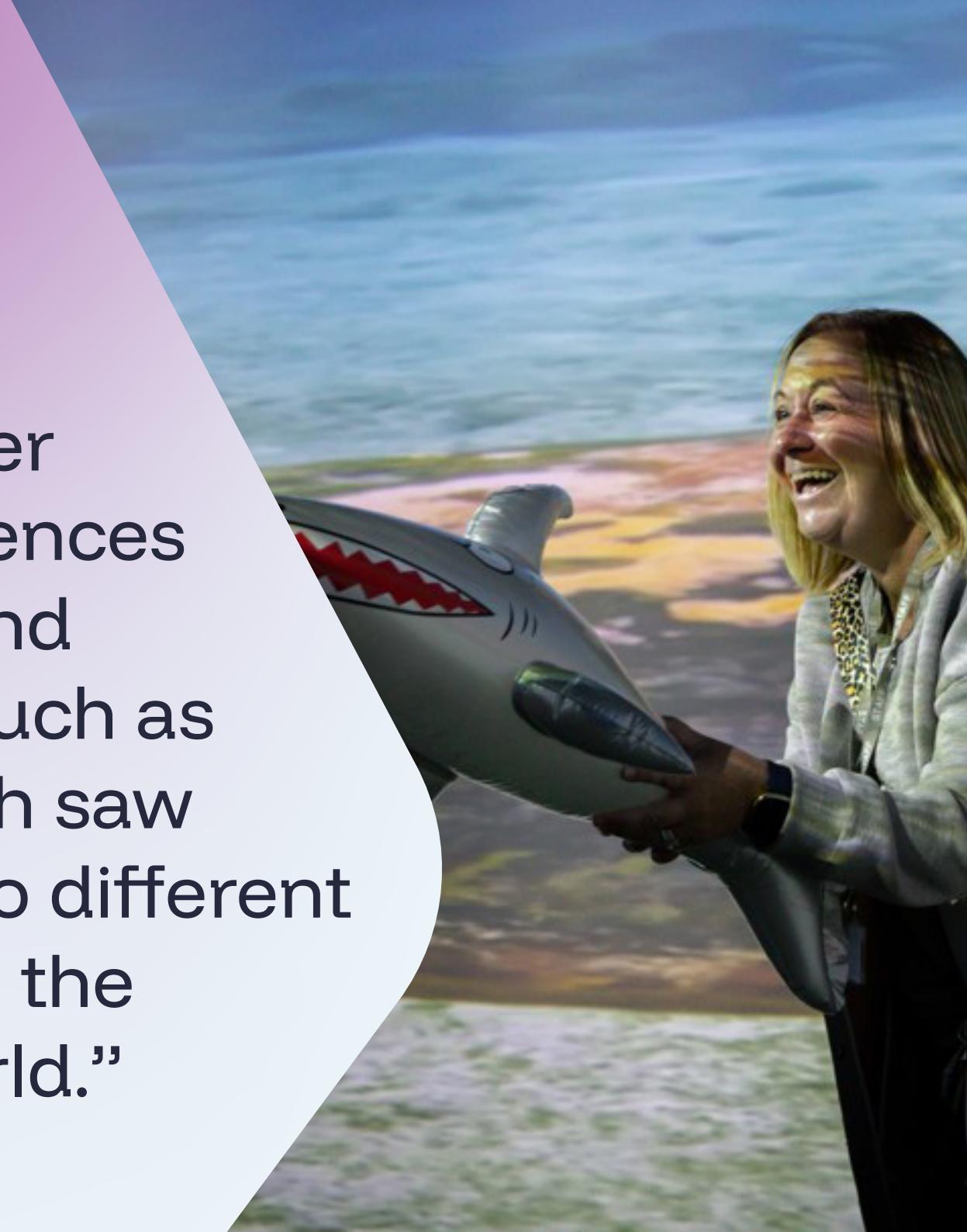
The immersive and sensory spaces have transformed learning and engagement at Danecourt. The pupils have shown tremendous enthusiasm for the new facilities, with many returning to sessions and even attempting to sneak into the immersive classroom during playtime. A clear sign of how valued the experience has become.

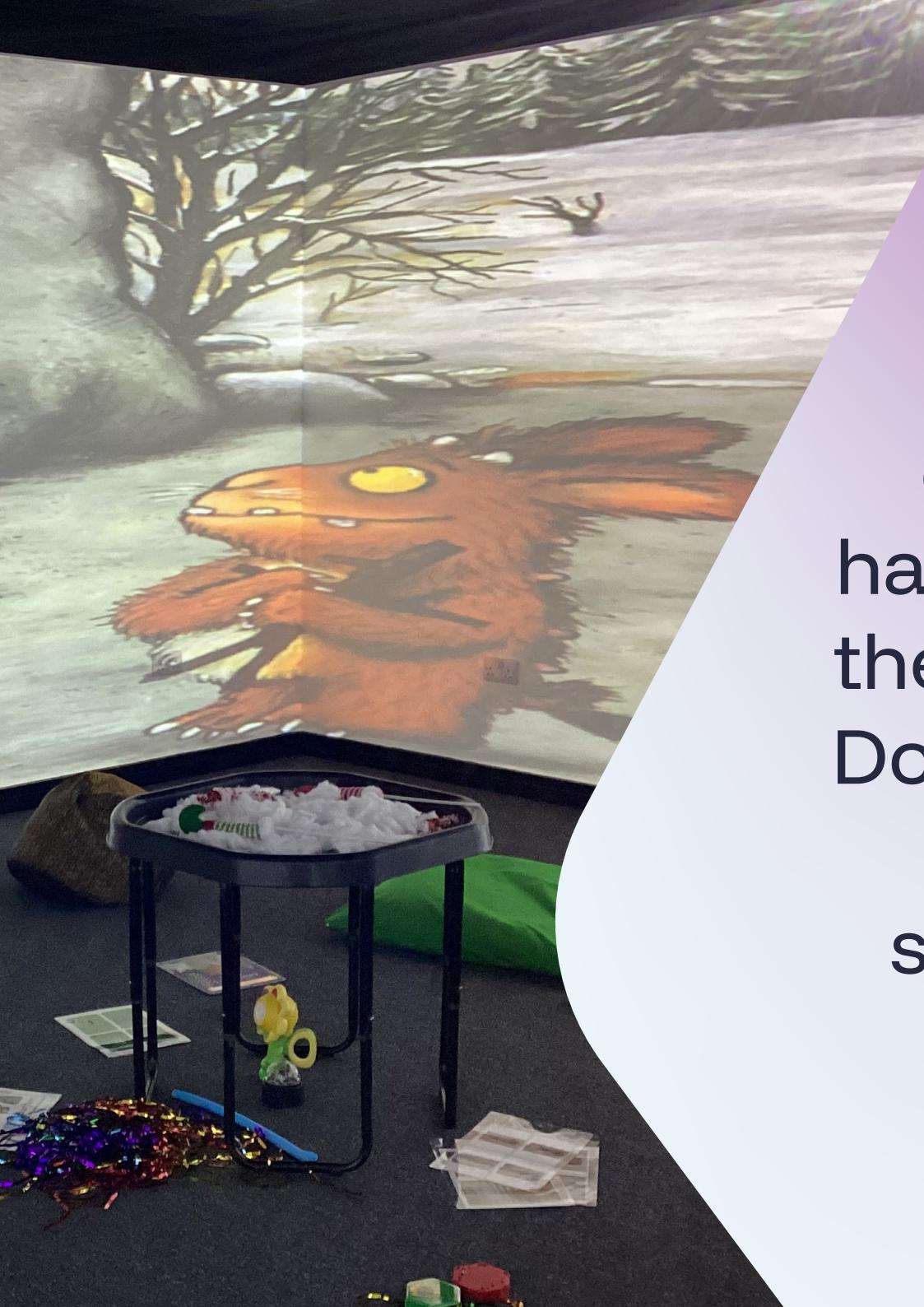
The rooms have also enhanced staff teaching approaches, supporting communication, sensory development, and confidence building. Moving forward, Danecourt plans to create bespoke immersive content using its new Insta360 camera, allowing pupils to virtually visit local community settings such as supermarkets, swimming pools, and restaurants. The school will also collaborate with nearby special schools to create transition videos for Year 6 pupils preparing for secondary education.



“The children have absolutely adored the space – using it for immersive Winter Wonderland experiences before Christmas and curriculum topics such as ‘Let’s Explore!’ which saw children travelling to different cultures and seeing the Wonders of the World.”

Lou Elliott, Danecourt Special School





“Some of our autistic learners with complex communication needs have found pleasure and their voice in seeing Julia Donaldson’s books come to life. They were also spotted trying to sneak into the classroom during playtimes!”

Lou Elliott, Danecourt Special School



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