

# Royal Free Hospital



**Healthcare Trust:** Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust

**Partner:** Kwickscreen

**Main Contractor:** Vinci

Designed with children in mind, The Royal Free Hospital understands that Hospitals can be daunting places for children and their families. The new design children's ward provides a friendly environment to help put children at ease and reduce anxiety when they come to hospital.

The fresh modern look has gone down well with staff and patients who are enjoying their new environment. There are now back-lit panels with blue skies and fluffy white clouds dotted around the ceiling of the ward, which has a bright and light feel.

The entire ward had to move to a new location in the hospital while the refurbishment took place over a six month period, but staff were back in their previous location for Christmas 2017.

The refurbishment of the Children's Ward was part of a larger redevelopment project at the Hospital, which included a new 23-hour assessment unit as well as a rapid assessment and treatment area, a larger resuscitation area and a diagnostic hub, which includes x-ray and CT scanning services. The plans also included the redevelopment of the urgent care centre and the provision of a dedicated paediatric emergency department.

## Vistamatic

Vistamatic were specified on the project by the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust and proceeded to work closely with them, Vinci Construction & Kwickscreen to create panels which incorporated the same graphics as those used on the walls and screens throughout the Ward.

Natalie Firminger at the Trust said that Vistamatic were specifically chosen due to their outstanding reputation and being the only company that could provide the high quality products and bespoke graphics that were required on the project, Vistamatic's portfolio of work within the healthcare sector was also influential in making the decision.

Vistamatic vision panels demonstrate innovation within their field and sets a precedent for the design of future environments, providing a number of benefits for end users, including:

- Respecting the modesty, privacy and dignity of patients and visitors
- Creating a welcoming and attractive environment that lifts the spirits of the end users
- Creating an inspirational sense of place and a therapeutic environment whilst addressing infection control, patient safety and security.

8 Vistamatic standard vision panels were a supply only to the project at the Royal Free Hospital along with 25 Vistamatic Max-XL/VistaSlide panels all with images on. They were open/close vision panels used in the doors and walls on the children's ward for the benefit of the hospital staff to observe patients whilst maximising privacy and minimising the disruption to the other ward users.



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The images on observation panels were specified to match the artwork used on the wall and screens throughout the new children's ward. This was a joint offering from Vistamatic and Kwickscreen delivering a combined customised offering, improving privacy and dignity and meeting the requirements for clinical infection control. The bespoke offering was designed to improve the overall patient experience and healthcare environment by incorporating artwork, thus creating an aesthetically pleasing and calming internal environment.

Studies have shown that colour and individual graphics can make the world of difference to a project be they of a novel or commercial nature and can play a part in creating an exciting or calming influence within an environment. Vistamatic and Kwickscreen recognised the importance of this and pride themselves on their effective approach to interior design, helping to create an outstanding therapeutic healthcare space.

### **Between Glass Blinds**

Between Glass Blinds are noted for their innovative, versatile and maintenance-free integrated blinds which are ideal for healthcare environments. Hygienically excellent, Between Glass Blinds create a user-friendly and aesthetically pleasing double-glazed integral blind system suitable for installation both internally and externally.

4 magnetic Between Glass Blinds were used on the Royal Free Hospital project, allowing the user full control and the ability to tilt the cordless blind operated using a sliding magnet in one slick and easy motion, giving the end user full control when privacy is needed.

The innovative blind sits inside a hermetically sealed double glazed argon filled unit, which protects the blind from damage, dirt and grime, meaning the blind meets the requirements for clinical infection control.

*“Working with Vistamatic on the Royal Free Hospital project in London has been great. This was the first project in which we worked alongside Vistamatic and we found them to be particularly easy to work with, the help afforded to us by the team at Vistamatic has been invaluable.*

*“The project was an ambitious one on our part due to it being a first accompanying Vistamatic to create a joint solution offering of customised and bespoke products. Combining our expertise and our shared ethos of attention to detail, flexibility and professionalism made the joint offering very achievable.*

*“The quality of the Vistamatic products, teamed with their flexibility and transparency was extremely refreshing and we would have no hesitation in recommending and indeed working with Vistamatic for any project in the future.”*  
**Michael Korn, Founder & Director – Kwickscreen**

