

## Appendix 2: Educational Engagement Programme (EEP): Play Space for Girls

Through the EEP, we have built relationships with secondary schools very local to the sites, Kidbrooke Square and Wembley Park. Working closely with the Design and Quality team in Property Development, we have developed a set of engagement resources to engage young people, particularly teenage girls, in the design process for children's play space we are obliged to deliver as part of our developments.

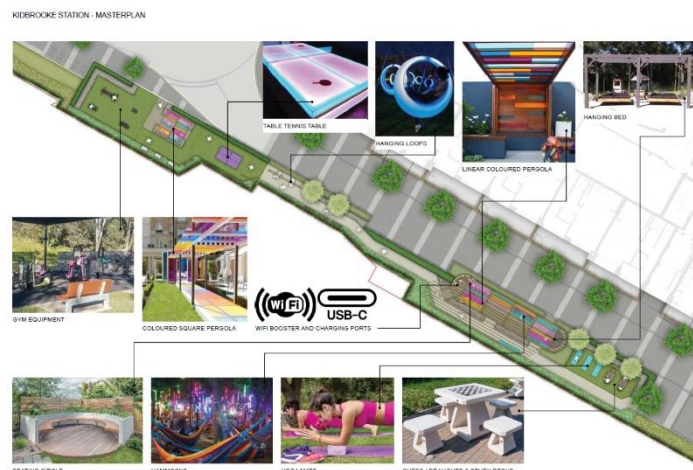


Picture 1: depicting six Ark Academy students being led by two facilitators, sat around a table.

Research tells us that girls aged eight or more are significantly less likely to use public play space than boys of the same age<sup>1</sup>. Play space often favours teenage boys with infrastructure such as skate parks and football pitches being central to infrastructure developed on schemes. Teenage girls are rarely consulted on the types of play facilities they would like to use and, as such, tend to retreat from public spaces.

We have developed a two-part workshop that helps young people to consider their own use of public space, identify negative or positive triggers, and then create their own designs for a specified play space. Part two sees the Design team from the project report back on how the young people's designs have changed the designs for the play space.

We have piloted the engagement workshops in two schools Ark Academy and Thomas Tallis School, neighbouring our Wembley Park and Kidbrooke sites respectively. At Ark Academy we engaged a mixed-gender group of sixth form students, while at Thomas Tallis School we engaged a mixed-age group of female students. In both sessions, the landscape architects gained insights that changed the infrastructure being delivered. The new design iteration was presented back to Wembley Park students in late May, and the feedback for Kidbrooke took place on 30 November 2023, with extra support from Mayor's Design Advocates.



Picture 2: New design presented to Thomas Tallis school students.

<sup>1</sup> Walker & Clark, Make Space for Girls: the research background, 2023

As well as achieving the Teenage Play Space key performance indicator within our Sustainable Development Framework, this type of engagement is ensuring we deliver thriving places to the breadth of communities we serve.