

HARKEL OFFICE CASE STUDY: *THE YORK SCHOOL*

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Turnkey Furniture Solutions for
the Contemporary Workplace



DESIGNING AN INSPIRING & INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT

Harkel-Global team collaborated to work on a major interior renovation project for The York School. The transformation of York School by the Harkel-Global team stands as a testament to the profound impact that thoughtful design and innovative furniture solutions can have on the educational experience. With a vision to create a more engaging and collaborative learning environment, the team introduced contemporary and ergonomic education furniture that seamlessly blended functionality with aesthetic appeal.

The York School is a co-educational private institution with over 50 years of experience located in Toronto, offering comprehensive education across elementary, middle, and senior grades, spread across two campuses.

The York School holds the distinction of being the first school in Canada to offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) Continuum across all grade levels and boasts a 100% university placement rate for its graduates.

When the school undertook a major interior renovation, the primary goal was to create an inspiring environment that would enable both students and staff to reach their full potential. This vision involved moving beyond the traditional concept of a learning space to establish a more contemporary and collaborative setting. The aim was to transform this coeducational middle and upper school into a dynamic and comfortable environment where staff and students could connect freely and flexibly.

"We wanted to create open, bright spaces, and we needed furniture to reflect that modern aesthetic. The lines, textures, and bright colours of the furniture complement our exposed concrete walls and large windows, adding a sense of connection and openness to our common areas. What we specified feels clean but not cold," explains Ian Johns, the school's Facilities Manager.



FUNCTIONALITY & DURABILITY

Johns also points out that functionality is just as important as aesthetics. Harkel-Global team chose furniture that would meet the rigorous demands of a school environment. The portfolio of education furniture included an array of mobile and height-adjustable tables, flip-top tables, collaborative and task seating and contemporary case goods, which are durable and flexible enough to withstand moves and reconfigurations. Further, the kit-of-parts design of Global Furniture enables individual parts like seat pans, armrests, casters and legs to be easily replaced on-site in minimal time frames, if required.

FLEXIBLE & INCLUSIVE DESIGN

Teachers requested options that would grant them the flexibility to configure their classrooms according to their preferences. Johns elaborates, "In today's learning environment, we are no longer restricted to just a chair and a desk. We need to cater to a diverse range of student learning styles." In these re-imagined spaces, students can work and connect from anywhere. Mobile and stackable chairs, along with flip-top and mobile tables, ensure this level of adaptability. Both students and teachers can arrange their spaces to support

collaboration, quiet individual work, or any combination within different areas.

These innovative setups also support individual learning styles down to the classroom chairs, which feature flexible backs that adjust to comfortably accommodate each student, whether they are sedentary or in motion. Common areas can be reconfigured to serve multiple functions, transforming from lunchrooms to collaborative learning spaces, or even event and community spaces in the evening. The cafeteria now also supports group work and socialization. In all these areas, power for mobile devices and technology support is readily available.

Now, with the York School's renovation complete, John reflects the sentiment of the school body, "It worked exactly as imagined!" Exceptional praise for the Harkel-Global team from an exceptional school.








**FEATURED PRODUCTS: SEATING: DUET, LITE, RIVER, SIRENA, SPRITZ
TABLES: PRINCETON, RIVER, TERINA**

SCAN QR CODE TO VIEW THE YORK
SCHOOL'S TOUR VIDEO



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