

What it took...
to develop a strong relationship between
Rickleton Primary School and Rolls-Royce UK Discs,
Washington.

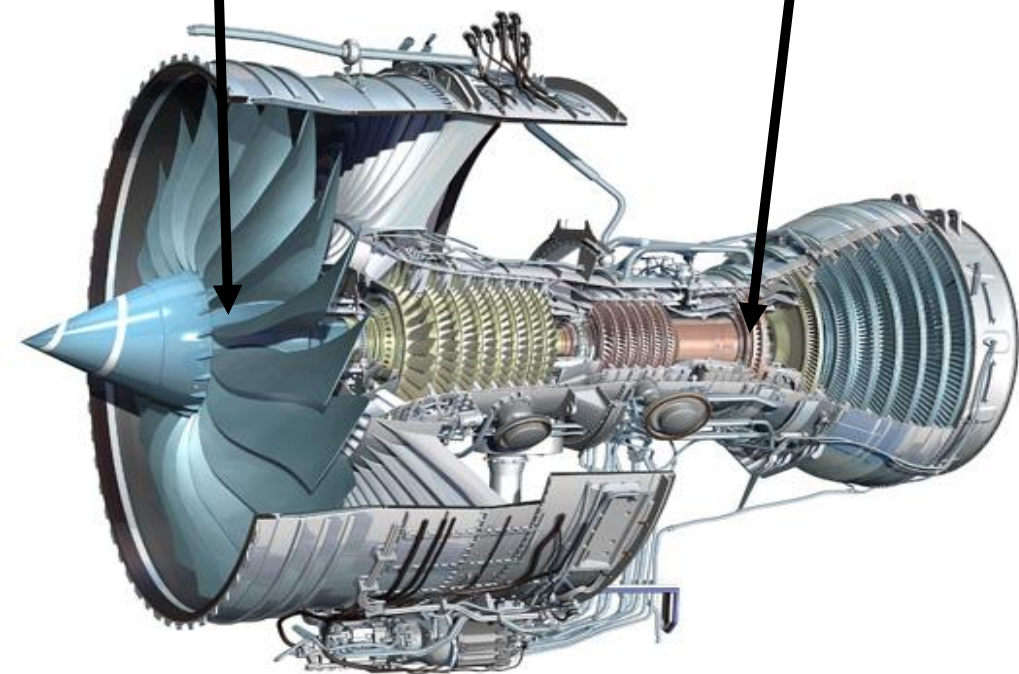


Rolls-Royce





Rolls-Royce



Youngsters at a Washington school have been putting their art and soul into a project to provide a centre-piece for a £100m factory.

Pupils at Rickleton Primary School are producing a huge mural for the town's Rolls-Royce aerospace plant, opened in June last year. The Vigo Lane primary is the nearest school to the site, so the factory, in Rickleton's Radial Park Road, has been keen to build up links in the hope of encouraging future generations of Washington workers to consider careers in engineering.

Headteacher Colin Loft-house said: "Traditionally, education has concentrated on secondary school pupils, but when we were invited in to the factory and talked to guys on the shopfloor, they said they'd all wanted to be engineers because of things they had done as young children."

"Rolls-Royce has been very forward-looking in supporting the development of a primary engineering curriculum in school."

"We have visited the factory with groups of children, and they have been amazed at the high-tech machines and robots making the parts. The factory's community committee has been fantastic with the children, coming in to do assemblies and workshops, and now it has asked us to make an art installation for its foyer."

"We were honoured to be asked as it is a prestigious and highly-visible place for our children's work."

All 460 pupils at the school have been involved in the project, overseen by teacher Kate Fisher and visual artist Zoe Allen. The idea behind their artwork is to trace the upward journey from below ground to ground level to sky - from minerals being mined to make the metal titanium, then turned into parts at the factory, then flying through the sky inside jet engines powering Airbus, Boeing and Bombardier aircraft.

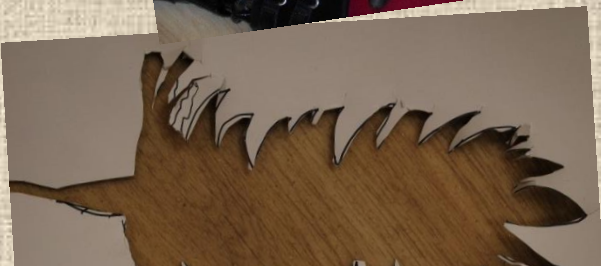
"The artwork is a representation of how small ideas grow in children into dreams and hopes for the future," added Mr Loft-house. The collage was photographed at each stage of its construction over three days last week, and those images will be used to produce a huge photographic wallpaper to be displayed in the factory and admired by its 300 employees.

Pupils get to art of matter for factory



Rickleton Primary pupils, watched by Rolls-Royce staff, making their collages. Below, more pupils at work.









Earth to Engine





We've seldom had pupils who could communicate their project so successfully. From the big picture concept to the details of design, build and evaluation. These pupils are very impressive.

Primary Engineer Judge



Woah! This place is amazing. It's like the inside of a Bond movie. I want to work here.

Year 5 pupil on factory visit

I'm really pleased we won. I might definitely think about being an engineer. I really liked what the judge said about our teamwork.

Year 6 pupil

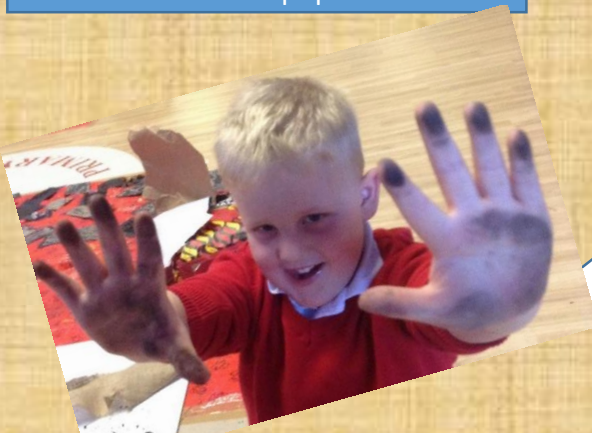


Well they've got to like it now haven't they? Cos we listened and put it right!

Year 3 pupil looking at version 2

Giggling
Look Mr Lofthouse we got really messy!

Reception children during the Art workshop.



Have you seen our bridge! It held a really heavy weight. I've learned loads about building. I'm going to be an engineer. Do you think Rolls-Royce do bridges? Year 4 pupil during engineering week

