



Office and Room Acoustics / Speech Privacy



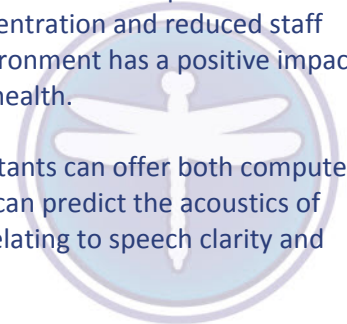
Office and Room Acoustics

Room Acoustics is often overlooked as an area of acoustic design. Failing to consider room acoustics can have a huge impact on the suitability of a work or leisure space.

Whether for an office space, lecture theatre, meeting room, auditorium, practice room or studio, the acoustic conditions should be carefully controlled and these are dealt with most effectively at the design stage.

A poorly designed acoustic environment within the workplace can lead to an increase in staff fatigue, loss of concentration and reduced staff profitability. A well designed acoustic environment has a positive impact on staff, work-rate, job performance and health.

At Dragonfly Acoustics our acoustic consultants can offer both computer modelling and physical modelling and we can predict the acoustics of internal spaces including acoustic issues relating to speech clarity and speech privacy.



Speech Privacy

Speech Privacy, or audibility, is not just a concept; it is a quantifiable feature of any room or open plan area.

It is assessed by measuring the noise level of the speech and comparing this with the level of background noise which effectively indicates how easily a conversation can be heard or, often more importantly, overheard.

The louder the background noise compared with speech the more the speech will be masked and hence the conversation will be more private. For example, compare a noisy pub where a conversation at the adjacent table would be unintelligible, if not completely inaudible, with the waiting room at a Doctor's Surgery, where even whispered conversation is clearly intelligible.

Data protection is important and ensuring conversations with clients, patients or students cannot be overheard is the first step to protecting their privacy.

