



# Our Eco-garden Dream

# Our Supporting Video

<https://vimeo.com/761754268/3df1bcfe10>



## **What is our aim?**

To expand and improve our outdoor learning area, create an area where wildlife will flourish and we can become more sustainable as a School Community.

## **With your help we will make a difference to:**

Our current and future pupils in both the Infant and Junior School

Our school staff

Our parents and carers

Our wider community – toddler groups

- church groups

- local residents

An **ALL INCLUSIVE** environment which everyone can access and discover safely



# Teamwork makes the dream work!

Our Eco team have met together to collaborate and design our Eco-garden.

We have looked hard at the space we currently have and what we have done so far. As a team we want to work together to develop our outside learning space to benefit us but also the future students too!







**Areas we want to develop as  
part of our Eco-garden**



Community  
Allotment

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# Our Sustainable Community Allotment

- **Companion planting**

We are going to plant particular vegetables together which will stop certain insects from eating it. For example garlic/onions in-between carrots to stop carrot eating carrot root flies.

- **Covering**

We are going to cover our crops with protective nets which will stop caterpillars and other leaf munching wildlife.

- **Collecting rainwater**

We are going to have a rain butt which will provide the source for water which we can use within the allotment.

- **Grow our own Vegetables**

We are going to have a vegetable planter for every year group. Three classes to every planter means that each planter can be well looked after, we want to make sure that we are providing an achievable plan for the future. The Vegetables we grow we hope to cook within our Forest school area.

- **Compost**

We are going to build a compost heap so that we can provide our own fertilizer from peelings and waste from our school kitchens.



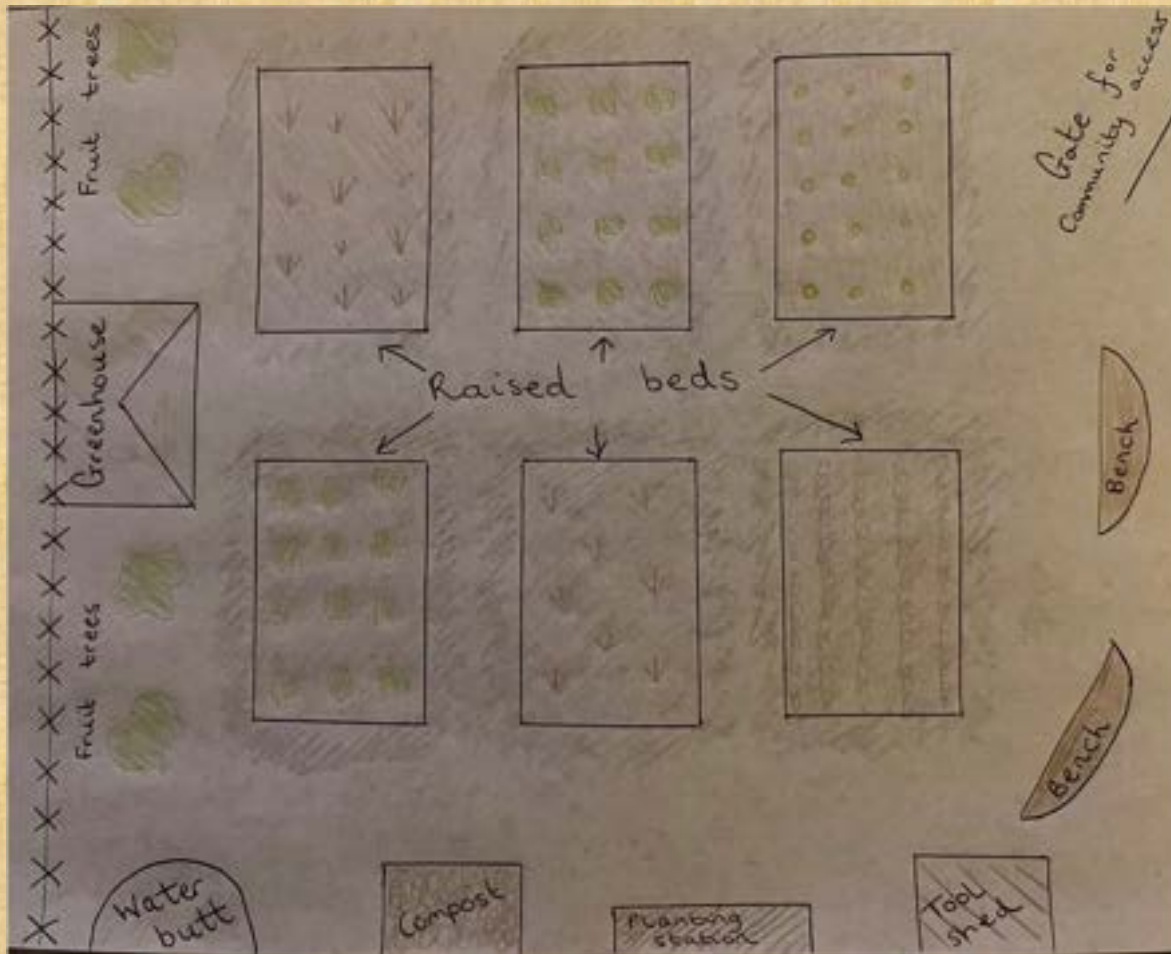
# Community Allotment

What does it look like now?





# Plan of our Community Allotment



For this area our Eco team really want to give back to the community and provide a place that can be looked after by not only our school community but also our local community too.

We would have raised beds with vegetables that will be used for cooking in school and for locals to use too, these will be maintained by each year group in school time but open to the public in evenings and weekends.

Benches for reflection and for people/pupils to take a rest from their busy lives to focus on their personal well being.

A tool shed to store all tools safely along with water butt, composter and planting station which will be accessible to all as we want different heights for wheelchair users.

Secure gate for community and local group access like scouts/guides/toddler/church.

Fruit trees to help us learn about where our food comes from, this can be used by our school and community.

It is important to us that our allotment is accessible and user friendly to all our school and community as an inclusive space. To aid us in becoming more sustainable as a whole community.



# Our Vision Mood Board – Community Allotment





An outdoor classroom setting featuring several trees with ropes and straps tied around their trunks. A dirt path leads through the trees towards a grassy field. In the background, there are tires and a fence. The sky is blue with some clouds. The text "Outside Classroom" is overlaid in the center in a green, sans-serif font.

# Outside Classroom



# Our Sustainable Outside Classroom

## - **Weather station**

We will create a weather station that will provide children with the opportunity to track weather conditions at help to education across science and geography lessons.

## - **Outdoor classroom**

Provide an all weather environment where children can learn whilst being outside, gaining knowledge of their local environment and how better to sustain the environmental development for wildlife. A living roof will provide a habitat for wildlife and give opportunities for observation of animals in their homes. Moveable wooden benches for pupils to work inside/outside.

## -**Upcycle and recycle**

Using recycled materials such as old planters/wheelbarrows to plant native plants for wildlife to feed off. Old tyres as planters, which can be developed and maintained by pupils and staff.



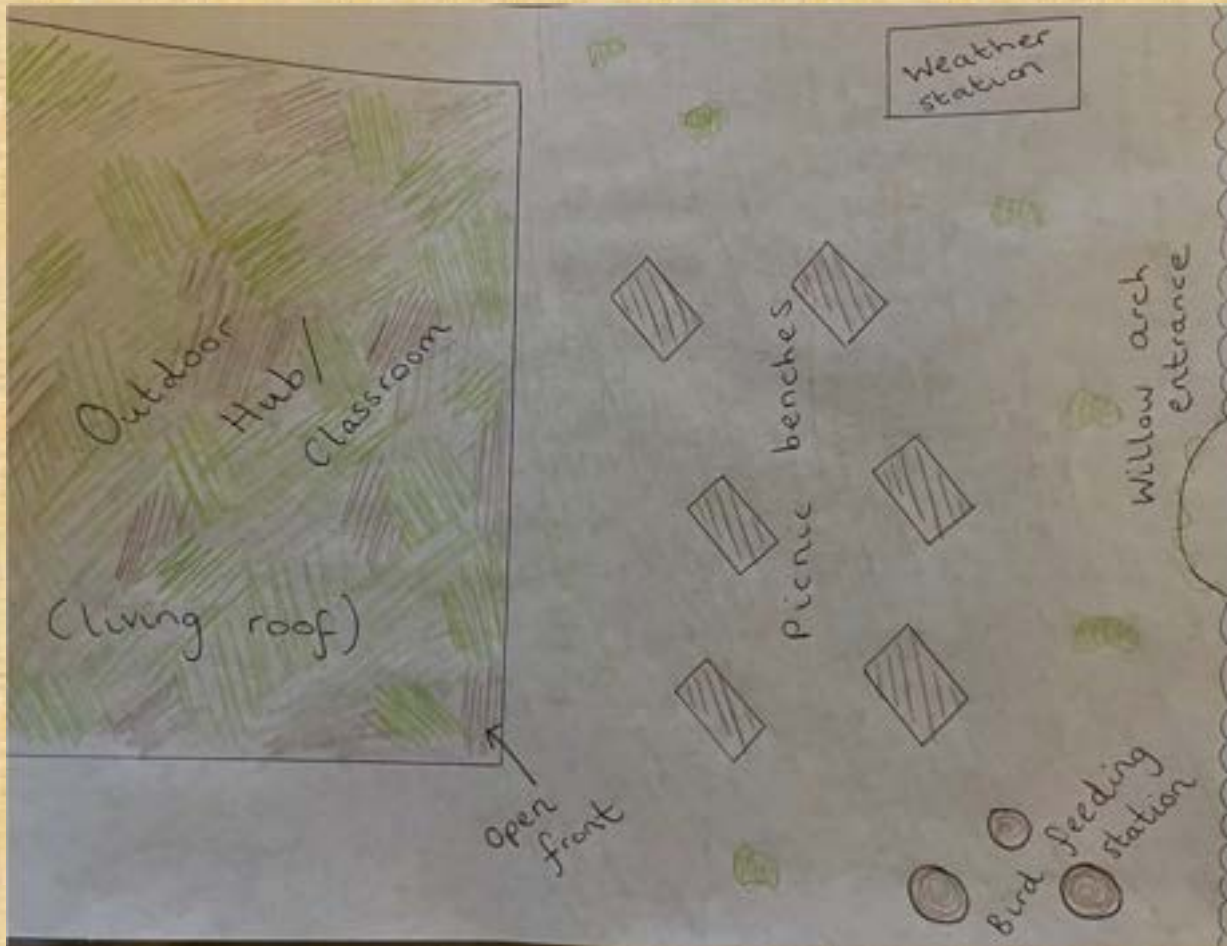
# Outside Classroom

What does it look like now?





# Plan of our Outside Classroom



Our Eco team have met together and tried to think carefully about what outdoor learning space we want to create. We want it to be as sustainable as possible so by having a covered classroom area with a living roof we can create a habitat for wildlife to live.

Using picnic benches means we can either work inside or outside weather dependent.

Putting a bird feeding station within the area will also provide us with an opportunity to observe and learn about different types of birds.

A weather station will help us understand the change in weather through the seasons.



# Our Vision Mood Board – Outdoor Classroom







# Forest School



# Our Sustainable Forest School

- **Leave the lawn to grow**

Native plants will start to grow like Alchemilla/ ox-eye daisies.

Only mow in late Summer if needed, tall grass will benefit the wildlife creating natural habitats and attracts insects.

- **Plant nectar rich flowers**

These attract pollinators, such as Buddleia/Marjoram/Lavender to attract Butterflies

- **Collect Rainwater**

Add a water butt to the Forest School area

- **Feed birds**

Add additional bird feeders to current trees, these will be built by the children within their forest school sessions, seed added daily by eco team.

- **Plant mature trees**

We will be planting more mature trees, fruit trees for children to harvest and develop their cooking skills within Forest School sessions. These will provide shelter and food for wildlife.

- **Upcycle Garden Furniture**

We will work with the community to collect and upcycle benches/wheelbarrows, adding nectar rich native plants which means it will be more self sustainable.

- **Build Bug Plane**

We are going to add a Bug hotel, which will provide shelter for insects and wildlife. Our design is an aeroplane which will attract insects and help pupils with learning about different habitats.



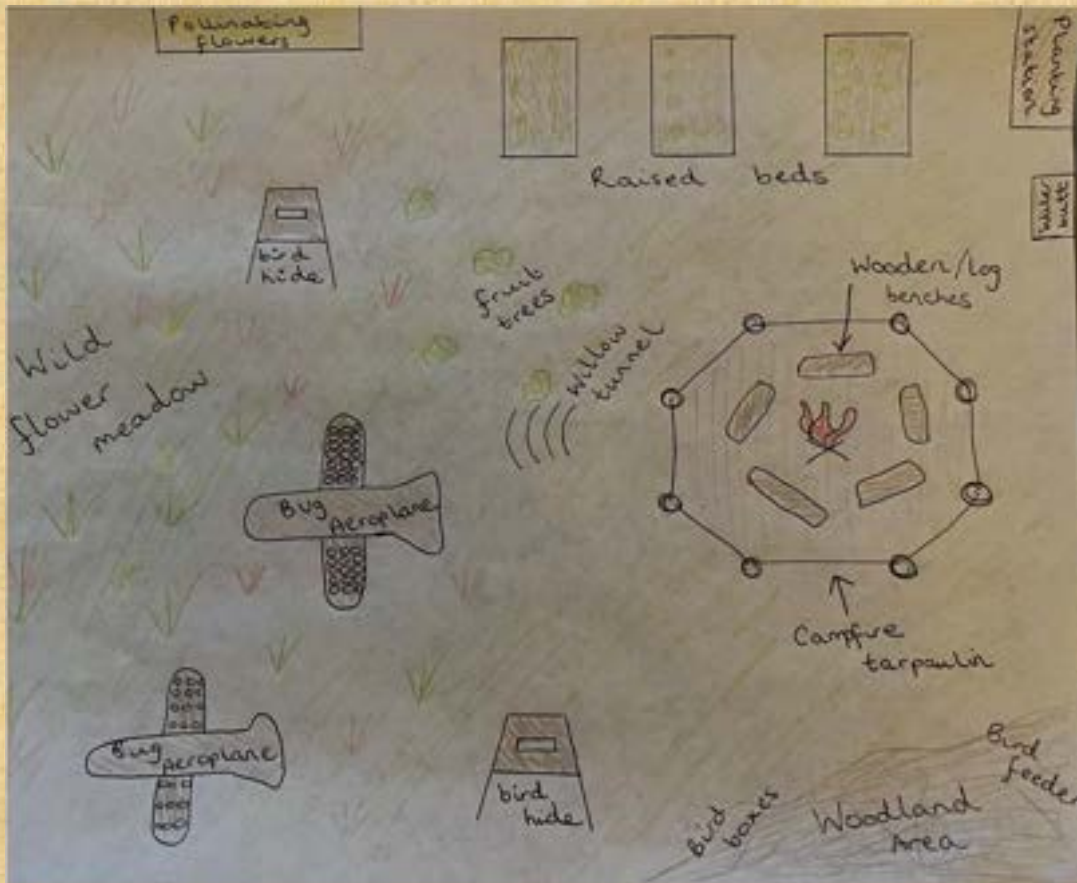
# Forest School

What does our Forest School look like now?





# Plan of our Forest School



As an Eco team we have been able to come up with some exciting ideas to develop our Forest School area. We have been working really hard over the last year to plant trees, adding a camp fire circle, mud kitchen and seating area.

With the funding we hope to add a tarpaulin to our camp fire circle which will aid us in using the space when raining and some larger logs for sitting on.

Raised beds for vegetable planting for the Infant School children to lead on and take ownership of.

A fantastic flower meadow to create a home for wildlife, with native flowers and pollinating flowers to attract insects.

Bird Hides for us to observe the wildlife and ensure we are not disturbing them.

Finally as a thank you to Manchester Airport, we would love to create some giant aeroplanes for bugs (like a bug hotel), this way we can remember those who have helped us achieve our vision for the future.



# Our Vision Mood Board – Forest School





# Biodiversity Audit (across a 45 Forest School session)

Location (Area in school)	Composition (list of species found)	Abundance (number of individuals of each species you observed)	How can increase the biodiversity in each area?
Forest School Under logs/on trees	Worms Butterflies Ladybirds Spiders Ants Slugs Caterpillars Bees	20 3 2 6 10 4 8 2	Add more native plants Add more pollinating plants Add bird boxes/feeding stations Add bug hotel/habitat
Outdoor learning Classroom In long grass/soil	Worms Butterflies Bees	8 2 3	Add more native plants Add more pollinating plants Add bird boxes/feeding stations Add bug hotel/habitat
Community Allotment In soil	Worms	10	Add more native plants Add more pollinating plants Add bird boxes/feeding stations Add bee hives/insect habitats



# Our Estimated Costings

Community Allotment	Outdoor Classroom	Forest School
<p>Structures:            Fencing / gate £2000            Tool shed x 2 and groundwork £2000            Greenhouse £50            Seating £200            Path £2500</p> <p>Equipment:            Raised beds £300            Water butt £100            Composter £100            Planting table £100            Adult and children garden tools £150</p> <p>Planting:            Compost / soil £1000            Variety of vegetable seeds £50</p>	<p>Structures:            Outdoor classroom £10,000</p> <p>Equipment:            Picnic benches £2200            Weather station £150</p>	<p>Structures:            Bird watching shelters £1000            Large tarpaulin and poles £250            Aeroplane bug hotels £1200</p> <p>Equipment:            Raised beds £400            Planters £400            Water butt £100            Bird boxes and feeders / food £150            Binoculars £150            Outdoor posters £50</p> <p>Planting:            Compost / soil £750            Mature fruit trees, wild flower seeds, sunflower seeds, variety vegetable seeds £1700</p>
<p><b>Total £8550</b></p>	<p><b>Total £12,350</b></p>	<p><b>Total £6150</b></p>



**Our sustainable plans will give back and not take from its surroundings.**

**We want to make an impact on our environment for the now and the future, with your help we believe the sky is the limit!**

