

Improve Your School Grounds

transform your space



Why improve your school grounds?

A recent survey showed that 64% of responding Norfolk head teachers who had improved their school grounds had found that **playground behaviour** had improved as a consequence. An even higher percentage of respondents (77%) had found that the changes that they had made had helped to **raise levels of educational attainment**. A well planned outdoor environment that is carefully designed and thoughtfully managed can be used to deliver many aspects of the **curriculum**. It can also extend the range of play and recreational **opportunities** to cater for the needs of all pupils and, at the same time, encourage a **positive** feeling for the school and the wider environment.

How to start:

It is important to consider the whole of your grounds first. We can help you carry out a school grounds **assessment** and recommend a **'vision' plan** for the whole school site. This ensures that what you do today doesn't compromise possible **future improvements**, and can include:

- Planning use of space to maximise efficiency.
- **Problem solving** for difficult areas.
- Eliminating trouble spots.
- Turning liabilities into assets.
- Re-planning **site usage and circulation**.
- Improvements to **school entrances**, frontages, and waiting areas for parents.



What we can do for you:

- Provide specialist advice when applying for **funding** streams/grants.
- Tree **surveys** and advise about layout of new development within your school grounds.
- **Play area** design and choice of play equipment, **safe surfacing** options.
- **Sports** pitches - drainage design, pitch improvements or reinstatement.
- Artificial **pitch** surfacing.



- **Trim trails** or outdoor challenge course.
- Outdoor classrooms, **amphitheatres** or performance space.
- identifying opportunities to exploit sun, shade, **shelter**.
- Co-ordinated seating, signage and other 'street furniture', **chill-out areas**.



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- Permaculture beds or demonstration areas, hands-on **gardening** activities, grow-your-own, orchards.
- Full ecological assessments, and **habitat** creation with associated outdoor classroom.
- Improve your **BREEAM** (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) rating with ecological enhancements.
- Wildlife areas, e.g. tree planting, ponds, **bird-feeding stations**, nesting boxes / table, wildflower grassland, **butterfly gardens**, mini-beast 'village'.
- **Sensory** gardens and experimental play.



Image (right) courtesy of Norfolk County Council 'Grounds for Inspiration'

- Access/levels/**DDA compliance**, appropriate facilities for children with special educational needs.
- Composting and **recycling** areas.
- **Living willow** features, mazes, murals, mosaics and other artworks, music.
- Appropriate **plant choice** for your situation.
- Making the most of your footpath surfacing, walls and fences for play & learning.

NB: The Landscape team makes a competitive charge for all of its services. Schools are therefore encouraged to phone and speak to a member of the team for details of costings.

- **Cycle** parking and cycle proficiency areas.
- Resolving **parking** arrangements & access problems.
- Long term **management plans** in line with the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for school grounds.
- Advise on the control of invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed.
- Preparing & submitting **planning applications**
- Inviting competitive tenders for work and **supervising** contracts.

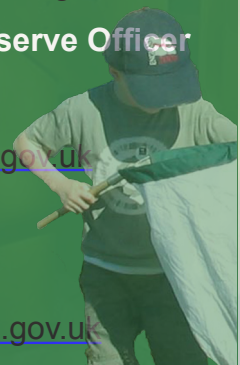


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