

## Background

The Schools Landscape Programme was set up by Hampshire County Council in September 1992. It is resourced by the equivalent of three full time landscape architects based within the Environment Department. It is one of several complimentary initiatives provided by Hampshire County Council to support your school in becoming more sustainable: [www3.hants.gov.uk/sustainableschools](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/sustainableschools)

## Aim

The aim of the programme is to support schools in the development of a clear, strategic vision for the improvement of your school grounds followed by guidance and advice towards specific changes.

## Benefits

The development of a strategic vision enables effective partnership working and leads to the creation of well designed, good quality environments which provide rich resources for learning and play. This approach also brings benefits to the wider environment.

## Process

Each school takes a comprehensive look at the whole of its site in terms of existing use, design and layout, access and circulation, maintenance and management etc. Potential opportunities and aspirations for the future are also explored.

Evaluation of this information gives a clear picture of the issues affecting the grounds from a wide perspective. This forms the basis for the development of a strategy for your school grounds.

## Partnership

Success of the whole process relies on a close working partnership between your school and the Schools Landscape Programme team. The working partnership is usually spread over a 12 month period.

## Involvement of pupils

The team welcomes and expects pupils to play a central role in the process. Pupils hold key information and have a valid perspective on the environment in which they may spend up to a third of each day. This information needs to be brought to the fore and communicated to the landscape architect.

The team also recognises that the process of planning and making changes is an important real-life educational opportunity. Schools working with the Schools Landscape Programme have a chance to use this opportunity and engage pupils constructively throughout the process.

## Steering Group

The best way to establish an effective partnership is through the formation of a School Grounds Steering Group. This group ensures that the grounds are considered from a whole school perspective rather than through the eyes of an individual. The make up of the group needs to reflect your community and may include the head teacher, other staff (teaching & non- teaching), governors, pupils, parents, neighbours.

The existence of such a group has proved to be instrumental in ensuring that individual school projects are successfully sustained in the long term.

## Funding

No charge is made to schools for the professional services of the landscape architects. However, funding any changes identified in the strategy is generally the responsibility of each school.

The expert support of the Hampshire Wildlife Trust (HWT) is also available and funded by the project where appropriate.

## Programme

The team work with a fixed programme of schools within each academic year.

An 'Introductory Briefing' is held each spring for schools who may be interested in being included on the programme.

If you would like to receive notification of the briefing please contact the team at the address overleaf. The briefing will be open to the Headteacher and one other school representative.

## Strategy reviews

Has your school already been through the Landscape Strategy process?  
Is significant change now planned?  
Have you discussed your needs with your Management Surveyor?  
Do you think your Landscape Strategy needs to be reviewed?

If so, please contact the Schools Landscape team who may be able to offer you further support.

## Summary of school commitments

Schools who join the programme will be committed to:

- ◆ The development of a strategy for their whole school site before focusing on individual projects.
- ◆ The formation and administration of a Steering Group which is representative of the whole school community
- ◆ Enabling the participation of pupils throughout the whole site planning and design process.

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# SCHOOL LANDSCAPE PROGRAMME

