

# **BID TO DEVELOP THE OUTDOOR AREA FOR** **COLINDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Over the past year the global pandemic has had an immeasurable impact on our pupils' lives. They have lost education; missed out on crucial social interaction with peers; spent more time inside; and had their young lives turned upside down.

Colindale Primary School is a hugely diverse school with Pupil Premium at 22%. Colindale is in the midst of a building boom with large scale flats being built over the last 5/6 years and continuing to be built for the next 10 years or so. The outdoor space our pupils have is at a minimum with a high number of our children living in flats with no direct access to any outdoor space. Colindale Park (by the station) has already been made smaller and again due to the pandemic the refurbishment of Rushgrove Aveune Park (which we were going to be a part of) has not been further developed.

Since March 8<sup>th</sup> 2020 we have begun to develop our outdoor areas in different ways. We have begun to develop a 'Wildlife Area' and 'Gardening Area' on a small scale. The impact of taking pupils to plant seeds; look after plants in the school environment; grow their own fruits and vegetables; and watch tadpoles turn into frogs has been very successful. The pupils involved have loved every minute of it. However not all pupils have been able to be involved and these areas are only in the beginning stages of development. The long-term goal is for every child to have outdoor learning via gardening and the pond in order to teach them about the natural world but also as a way to support their mental health well-being.



Prior to the pandemic we had begun to develop our outdoor playtime and lunchtime equipment. This was hugely successful and allowed pupils to play a wide range of games and sports such as volleyball; tennis; using skipping ropes; balls; space hoppers; catching equipment; and other interactive resources during playtimes and lunchtimes. More recently we have been able to raise funds to pay for playground markings to be put down on our courts. The pupils have loved being able to use equipment and play games with friends. The impact of this has already been seen through the increase of social interaction pupils have with each other and the decrease in behaviour related incidents occurring.

The money provided by the borough would allow for our pupils to have fully developed and utilised outdoor space and areas within school where could they learn; play; socially interact; build friendships; and have experiences they may not get elsewhere. These areas would be used by staff and pupils to help support mental health and well-being. In a recent local authority review focussed on PSHE it could be seen across the school how our curriculum supports mental well-being and places it as high in importance as physical well-being. In particular over the last year the staff and pupils have worked hard to understand how good mental health is vital for all areas of life.

This bid outlines what the funding would allow us as a school to achieve and the impact this would have on our pupils, staff and the wider community.



# THE GARDENING AREA

Since March 2021 this area has been developed in the following ways:

- Beds for each year group to plant in have been created
- Reclaimed tyres have been painted and small bedding plants have been planted
- The year 1 outside planting area has been prepared and small bedding plants have been planted
- Year 1, 2 and 3 pupil have all taken part in gardening

Next steps where the money from the bid would help:

- To buy adult tools for gardening in all the areas of school £240 [Buy Wooden Sand Boxes and Planters | TTS \(tts-group.co.uk\)](https://www.tts-group.co.uk)



- Buying low level planters and accessible planters for our physically disabled pupils £ 2858

[Raised Bed Planters | Planting & Growing | Forest Garden](#)

[Living Made Easy - Wheelchair Accessible Gardening Station](#)

[Wheelchair Accessible Raised Bed / 1.5 x 1.125 x 0.85m - WoodBlocX raised beds - for accessibility - All Kits | WoodBlocX](#)



- Essential gardening tools for children £117.95
- [Buy Essential Gardening Equipment 45pk | TTS \(tts-group.co.uk\)](https://www.tts-group.co.uk)



- As an Eco-School we would also like to begin composting fruit peels and cores from the pupils' daily fruit. We will need bins for these £107.94 [Buy Odour Free Compost Bin Caddy | TTS \(tts-group.co.uk\)](https://www.tts-group.co.uk)

The impact of the money provided will:

- ❖ Allow for the upkeep and maintenance of the gardening areas and the greenhouse.
- ❖ Allow for every class to access gardening. Opportunities for this will be timetabled as part of science and the PSHE curriculum.
- ❖ These learning experiences will provide pupils with opportunities they may not have experienced before but also provide real life opportunities.
- ❖ A yearly 'Farmers Market' will take place where pupils will grow their own fruits and vegetables to sell to the school and wider communities.
- ❖ Pupils' mental health will benefit from being outside and learning and working within nature.
- ❖ As a school we have joined The Royal Horticultural Society's Campaign for School Gardening. The society themselves state that there are direct benefits of gardening for children including building confidence; teamwork; communication; enhancing literacy, numeracy and oracy skills; encourages a better and healthier lifestyle; teaches about the environment and sustainability; and helps enrich the entire curriculum from science, maths and geography - to art, design and languages; and helps young people engage with their surroundings better and develop a sense of responsibility.
- ❖ As a Green Flag Eco school, we aim to promote sustainability in all aspects of school life. The produce children will grow will also be used in cooking lessons and within our school lunches. The composting will teach them how to reduce waste and be more environmentally friendly.



# THE WILDLIFE AREA

Since March 2021 this area has been developed in the following ways:

- The pond has been repaired.
- Year 5 pupils have redesigned the area so that it is no longer just a pond but a wildlife area which when fully developed will create microhabitats.
- Year 5 pupils have created 'seed bombs' from which wildflowers local to England have now grown.
- Plants have been bought and used in the pond to encourage tadpoles and local wildlife back into the area.

Next steps where the money from the bid would help:

- Buying tanks £ 47.97 [Buy Assorted Transparent Plastic Tanks | TTS \(tts-group.co.uk\)](https://www.tts-group.co.uk)  
Pupils will be able to collect samples from the pond and take them back up to class will help them see changes in the lifecycle of frogs. The tanks can also be used to create microhabitats within the classrooms.
- Having 'bug homes' and bird feeders to encourage more insects into the Wildlife Area.  
£224.95 - [School Garden Resources and Equipment from TTS \(tts-group.co.uk\)](https://www.tts-group.co.uk)  
£143.00 - [Bird Tables | Bird Feeders | CJ Wildlife \(birdfood.co.uk\)](https://www.birdfood.co.uk)
- Investing in cameras for the Wildlife Area and under the pond. This will enable pupils to see what is happening all year round in these areas. The cameras can live stream to classes and this will help deepen the pupils' understanding of the animals and habitats as well as learn about lifecycles of different animals.



£149.99 - [Bird Box Camera | Digital Wired Nest Box Camera - RSPB Shop](https://www.rspb.co.uk)

£153.00 - [Underwater Camera, Aquarium Live Streaming Pond 5MP Cameras with 10M Cable : Amazon.co.uk: Sports & Outdoors](https://www.amazon.co.uk)



- Investing in equipment such as pond nets and animal observation tools will allow pupils to gain a better first-hand experience of the animals in the area. £730

[Minibeasts & Animals Resources From TTS \(tts-group.co.uk\)](https://www.tts-group.co.uk)



The impact of the money provided will:

- ❖ Allow for further development of the Wildlife Area and pond.
- ❖ Allow for every class to access the Wildlife Area. Opportunities for this will be timetabled as part of science and the PSHE curriculum.
- ❖ The cameras will allow learning from the outside to come into the classrooms in a real way. Pupils will be able to witness first-hand how the animals use the habitats they have created and be able to see different stages of lifecycles.
- ❖ Pupils' mental health will again benefit from being outside and learning and working within nature.
- ❖ As an Eco school, we are trying to promote looking after our local, national and global environment. The pupils can learn how this can be done on a small scale which helps to impact the environment on a larger scale.
- ❖ This will again be an ongoing project with yearly costs of maintenance.



# THE OUTSIDE PLAY AREAS

We have begun to develop our outdoor play areas by investing in a variety of play equipment as well as adding playground markings to certain areas. The overall aim is to create play areas where children of all ages and abilities have opportunities to engage in activities that are fun, stimulating, interactive, and challenging. Our pupils with SEND are a valuable part of our school community and we aim to create play spaces where they can further interact and share games with their peers.

Next steps where the money from the bid would help would include:

- A low level play ship which would be accessible to all approx. £4495

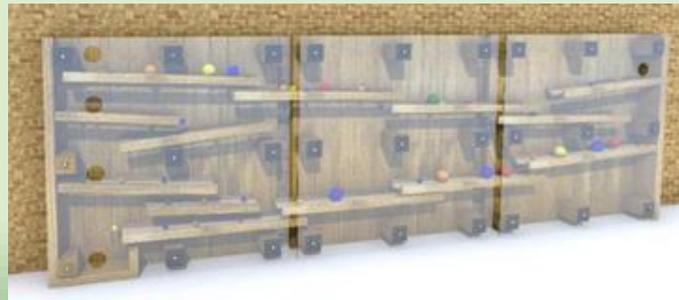
<https://www.pentagonplay.co.uk/products/imaginative-and-creative/themed-play/low-level-play-ship>

- Wall mounted ball run approx. £1995

<https://www.pentagonplay.co.uk/products/imaginative-and-creative/outdoor-sensory-play-equipment/wall-mounted-ball-run>

- Sensory Tunnel with planters approx. £3295

<https://www.pentagonplay.co.uk/products/imaginative-and-creative/outdoor-sensory-play-equipment/sensory-tunnel>



➤ Outdoor drum panel - £327

<https://sensorysurroundings.co.uk/collections/sensory-garden/products/outdoor-drum-panel-x-4>

➤ Climbing wall double sided with safety surface £4600 - £5700

<https://www.mockrock.co.uk/>

➤ Fully inclusive roundabout £5,099.00 (not including delivery and installation)

<https://www.playdale.co.uk/product/inclusive-orbit/>

➤ Playground windmill sensory set - £129.99

<https://www.cheapdisabilityaids.co.uk/20-piece-playground-windmill-sensory-set-38802-p.asp>



➤ Community play blocks - £3,388

<https://www.communityplaythings.co.uk/products/outdoor-play/outlast-blocks/w388>

➤ Outdoor score board panels (blackboards) - £50- £200

<http://www.boards4u.co.uk/BKU-EX2.html>

➤ Sandpit tray - £1,359

<https://www.handmadeplaces.co.uk/products/pedestal-sand-pit/>



The impact of the money provided will:

- ❖ Allow for all pupils to play imaginatively and creatively
- ❖ Allow for social interaction between pupils
- ❖ Encourage inclusive play
- ❖ Develop language and communication through sensory play, problem solving and cooperation
- ❖ Allow pupils to regulate their emotions
- ❖ Present physical challenges which will help develop pupils' resilience and physical agility
- ❖ Help improve coordination

The addition of interactive and inclusive play areas will allow all our pupils to play and learn together without any barriers. We are very proud of how inclusive Colindale is and we are inclusive in all aspects. This type of equipment and resources will enable us to ensure the pupils are fully included in all outdoor learning and play as well.



# COVERED OUTSIDE AREAS

Further support pupils' mental health and to utilise our outdoor space we need more sheltered or covered areas. Currently we have an outdoor classroom that is used for lessons only. More covered/ shaded areas would provide:

- Space for packed lunches to eat outside in warmer weather.
- Areas where classes could have lessons when using areas such as the garden, pond or wildlife area
- Space for pupils to go when they want to take part in quiet activities at playtimes or for more shade during warmer weather.
- Areas for lessons such as PSHE which are often discussion based
- Areas which can be used for Storytime and performances

These covered and shady areas would provide further opportunities for teachers and other staff to take pupils outside more often.

## [Shade Sails Equipment — OUTDOOR FOR SCHOOLS BY AEL](#)

The cost of these shade sails would depend on the areas within school where they could be placed. Ideally, we would want 3 different areas which currently form part of the field and areas near the basketball courts.

