

Area Board Project

1. What is the Initiative?

Outdoor learning project at Matravers School.
This project will see the creation of allotments and complementary outdoor activity areas in the school grounds to benefit 1000+ students. It will be used to grow vegetables and fruit and would be managed by a diverse group of up to 25 students with a range of needs, giving them invaluable practical skills outside the academic environment. The work would be supported by a nutritionist, who would educate the students on preparation for wellbeing. The project would also investigate the possibility of hothouses in order to establish a floristry project, which would be linked to students gaining qualifications.

2. Where is the initiative taking place?

In the grounds of Matravers School, Westbury

3. When will the initiative take place?

As soon as possible to design, plan and then launch through the growing season.

4. What are the Community benefits/evidence of need/links to Community Plan/Community Issue?

In the Westbury Community Area Plan 2011-16, Section 6 under Health and Wellbeing , Changing Lifestyles is identified as a key priority.
In the last Joint Strategic Assessment for the Westbury community area, childhood obesity was shown to be the second highest in the county and the purchase of fresh fruit and vegetables as one of the lowest.

5. What is the desired outcome of this initiative?

The aim is to encourage pupils to engage in practical outdoor activities, raise awareness of the importance of keeping a healthier lifestyle and help them learn new skills. This project will provide the opportunity for students from a diverse range of backgrounds to work together in order to enhance the community, learning from each other. It is also hoped to engage members of the community to help with the allotments and share their skills with the pupils, encouraging cross generational activity and cooperation. The practical skills and outcomes will aid pupils when they enter the workplace. In addition, the project aims to offer qualifications (City and Guilds or RHS levels 1 to 3 for example) to enhance the pupils' learning profile and their employability. Matravers could thus become a qualification provider and this would be a real innovation and initiative in this region.

6. Who will Project Manage this initiative?

Matravers School

7. Costs/quotes/ match funding? (total cost £5k require 1 quote, total cost £5k-25k require 3 quotes)

The start up costs for this project will be £5,000. This will enable the set up of allotments, purchase of gardening tools and equipment, construction and purchase of sheds, greenhouse, outbuildings and fencing.

8. Additional information

This project will be sustainable – once set up, it will provide a valuable resource for the school and help to engage future pupils in a diverse range of activities and learning. It would be the school's aim to become an approved centre for qualification for RHS and/or City and Guilds; this would allow it to develop as a valuable learning resource for schools within our vicinity and offer outreach style learning.