

Bradford on Avon Area Board Youth Grants 2012

1. What is the Initiative?

We would like to brighten up the Garden in the Quiet Zone. We need two benches so we can sit outside and enjoy the fresh air while we have our lunch.

The Quiet Zone is a nice big room where any student can come if they are upset or need time out to calm down. It is in a separate building looking out over a field. Outside we have a garden area.

2. Where is the initiative taking place?

At St Laurence School, Bradford on Avon, outside the Quiet Zone in the garden area. This measures 8 metres by 6 metres.

3. When will the initiative take place?

March onwards. This is now a long term project, which we hope to build on year after year. We are already planting seeds in pots on the windowsills, and we have some plants like strawberries, mint and rosemary in temporary plastic beds from last summer.

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

The Quiet Zone is a place for us to come if we are upset, and it is a calm place for us to have our breaks away from the noisy students. Some of us have Asperger's Syndrome and we like to play with the games and puzzles with an adult to supervise us.

We have a gardening group after school on Thursdays, when we can catch up on jobs we haven't done at Break or Lunch.

5. What is the desired outcome of this initiative?

By being able to sit outside and enjoy the flowers and plants we are growing, we can feel relaxed. The garden teaches us all about sustainability, life cycles and nature and the environment. We are working together as a team to make the garden really lovely, and be something we can be really proud of.

6. Who will Project Manage this initiative?

Miss Beazley, who is the Quiet Zone Manager and a Principal TA at the school, together with Miss Heselton the gardener.

7. Costs/quotes/ match funding?

The school is paying for a new fountain, and for the help of the school gardener who is helping us dig the borders.

Staff have already donated seeds, pots and tools to help us.

The benches we would like are from Whitehall Garden Centre Lacock, and are made from sustainable Acacia wood. They are weather proof and cost £199 each (in the sale!) normally £249.00 each.

8. Additional information

Last year the students helped start a small area of garden and grew many different vegetables and flowers.

All of the students enjoyed the opportunity to try something new, like growing wild flowers, sunflowers or strawberries. Many of the students who use the Quiet Zone regularly, have Social and Communication Difficulties, and here they can interact socially with adult support and encouragement.

This sustainable and organic garden will help with the stress management, self esteem and confidence building for the vulnerable students who access it daily. We have a compost bin, a wildlife area "bin" and water butts to catch the rainwater off the roofs.

The benches will provide seating for up to six students making it perfect for small group intervention work such as Art Expression and Nurture Groups.

Any student in the School can use the garden too, if they are upset or unwell, and need to wait somewhere peaceful.