



EAST MIDLANDS IN BLOOM 2017 BEST SCHOOL GARDEN SPECIAL AWARDS

REPORTS

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Best School Garden Judges: Liz Alun-Jones, Malcolm Brown, Graham Lamb, Emma Schofield,
Joyce Slater, Judith Warner, Martha Wörsching

Bleasby Church of England Primary School

Alison Ramsey & Sue Parkinson
 Garden n Grow Club
 Bleasby Church of England Primary School
 Station Road
 Bleasby
 Nottinghamshire
 NG14 7GD

Dear Alison and Sue,

Many thanks for seeing me on the 14th July 2017. I really enjoyed being showed round by James, Sebastian, Thomas, Bella and Izzy. I understand Daniel was unable to be there and I am sorry that I did not meet him as I understand that he has been very active in the Garden N Grow club.

As a new gardening club you have done an amazing job of creating your garden within the space of one growing season. It is clear that you, as club facilitators, and the children have put a huge amount of effort and your upcycling of donated items has made a very effective garden.

The following shows where I consider you are doing really well and where you are looking to achieve more:

SECTION 1 Gardening Activities, Skills and Knowledge	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Involvement of each class in the garden. No. of pupils			x		
Activities that develop skills and knowledge				x	
Year round gardening/growing activities	x				
Gardening club(s) with regular meetings				x	
Raised beds or plots				x	
Principals of rotation/ timing and growing cycles	x				
Range of crops, annuals, perennials				x	
Basic plant recognition				x	

SECTION 2 Garden's Contribution to Education & the Curriculum	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Classes held outdoors			x		
Imaginative use of the garden in teaching			x		
Wide range of curriculum subjects covered		x			
Use of outdoor classroom					x
Average time students spend in the garden each week			x		

SECTION 3 Value in sustaining the environment and wildlife	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Effective composting and water collection				x	
Planting to encourage wildlife		x			
Examples of features for wildlife		x			
Evidence of wildlife observation			x		
Student knowledge of wildlife			x		

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SECTION 4 Growing Fruit and Vegetables & Healthy Living	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Pupil involvement and knowledge of growing food				x	
Range of fruit, vegetables and herbs grown				x	
Quality of food grown				x	
Making use of food produced	x				
Food awareness from plot to plate	x				

SECTION 5 Design, Management and Maintenance	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Overall impression, maintenance, hard landscape features, plant quality.				x	
Garden layout, displays, accessibility, health & safety			x		
Care and maintenance by pupils				x	
Holiday maintenance				x	
Future plans				x	
Links to sponsorship and advice				x	

MARKS AWARDED

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	SECTION 5	TOTAL MARKS
15	11	15	17	19	77

SCHOOL GARDEN AWARD: SILVER GILT

Judge's Comments

For a first year of gardening you have created a wonderful garden at the school, which is a credit to the club leaders and the children. The children are clearly very actively engaged in the garden and are learning skills for life. The staff are very supportive.

The planting around the whole school has made the school a more attractive learning environment.

There was excellent sowing, planting & growing of fruit, flowers and vegetables. It was good to see unusual varieties of plants grown from seed and it is a great way to get children to engage in growing vegetables and salads. The achievement of RHS level 5 shows what you have achieved in a very short time.

Inevitably in a first year of gardening you are not able to demonstrate the full potential of the garden as a year round learning resource although I have no doubt as to your plans and intentions for it to be so and your marks reflect this. I look forward to seeing year round growing of edibles and flowers which will facilitate learning about crop rotation and soil management. You may want to explore the use of green manures.

The club will have to ensure their exciting and ambitious development plans around the positioning of the shed address health and safety, accessibility and safeguarding concerns.

As the fruit and vegetable gardens develop the teaching staff will be able to use the garden as a teaching resource in more areas of the curriculum especially at KS2. They may find it helpful to use the teaching resources on the RHS and Garden Organic websites.

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As produce is grown and harvested greater use of fruit and vegetables in classroom cooking, school meals and enterprise activities will develop all pupils understanding of where their food comes from. Your potato sale was clearly a great success and the funds it raised will enable you to develop your garden in the next year.

The club has taken over existing wildlife areas in the grounds and it will be interesting to see how these are developed to both engage children in the outdoors and facilitate curriculum activities.

It will be an interesting experiment for the pupils to compare the occupancy of the old bug hotel behind the meadow to that of the very smart new one that has been recently built.

I look forward to seeing your garden progress.

Joyce Slater
East Midlands in Bloom Best School Garden Judge

Visit date 14th July 2017

Blidworth Oaks Primary School

Mr P Johnson
Blidworth Oaks Primary School
Haywood Avenue
Blidworth NG21 ORE

Dear Phil

Many thanks for seeing me on the 4th July 2017. I really enjoyed being showed round by Rian, Darce, Ruby, Violet & Camaron and they did a great job of ensuring I saw all of Blidworth Oaks' many gardens, gardening and growing spaces.

It is clear that gardening and the gardens are a real success in the school and with so many pupils taking part in the lunchtime club and so many classes and groups using the different spaces it is clearly a valued and positive part of school life.

The following shows where I consider you are doing really well and where you are looking to achieve more.

SECTION 1 Gardening Activities, Skills and Knowledge	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Involvement of each class in the garden. No. of pupils				X	
Activities that develop skills and knowledge				X	
Year round gardening/growing activities				X	
Gardening club(s) with regular meetings				X	
Raised beds or plots				X	
Principals of rotation/ timing and growing cycles				X	
Range of crops, annuals, perennials				X	
Basic plant recognition				X	

SECTION 2 Garden's Contribution to Education & the Curriculum	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Classes held outdoors				X	
Imaginative use of the garden in teaching				X	
Wide range of curriculum subjects covered			X		
Use of outdoor classroom				X	
Average time students spend in the garden each week				X	

SECTION 3 Value in sustaining the environment and wildlife	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Effective composting and water collection				X	
Planting to encourage wildlife				X	
Examples of features for wildlife				X	
Evidence of wildlife observation				X	
Student knowledge of wildlife				X	

SECTION 4 Growing Fruit and Vegetables & Healthy Living	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Pupil involvement and knowledge of growing food				X	
Range of fruit, vegetables and herbs grown				X	
Quality of food grown				X	
Making use of food produced				X	
Food awareness from plot to plate				X	

EAST MIDLANDS IN BLOOM BEST SCHOOL GARDEN SPECIAL AWARDS 2017

SECTION 5 Design, Management and Maintenance	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Overall impression, maintenance, hard landscape features, plant quality.				X	
Garden layout, displays, accessibility, health & safety				X	
Care and maintenance by pupils				X	
Holiday maintenance				X	
Future plans			X		
Links to sponsorship and advice				X	

MARKS AWARDED

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	SECTION 5	TOTAL MARKS
20	18	20	19	19	96

SCHOOL GARDEN AWARD:

GOLD and OVERALL WINNER of the BEST SCHOOL GARDEN

Judge's Comments

Excellent use has been made of diverse gardens and habitats around the school to create spaces to support children and their learning across a wide range of curriculum areas. I particularly like the way in which the gardens are used for whole class teaching as well as individual and small group support.

The daily garden club is extremely well attended and the redesign of the raised beds in the vegetable garden and the poly-tunnel for improved accessibility has enabled more children to participate and develop a wide range of gardening skills. I like the child-centred experimental gardening you have done this year and was delighted by the growing in the foundation area.

Engagement with the wider community is excellent and the flower bed by the winding gear in Blidworth village is a credit to the school gardeners. The beautiful hanging baskets that are sold to raise funds for gardening show how well the pupils care for their school gardens.

The Starbeaks café is a great way to engage the children in wildlife observation. I look forward to seeing the fruition of your project to get the IT club activities outdoors to monitor a squirrel assault course and other wildlife.

Your produce is mainly used by the school kitchens which is great for healthy eating. More cooking with produce will enable the development of a wider range of life skills for individual pupils off the back of gardening and can form part of the curriculum. Growing more unusual crops or more unusual versions of vegetables and fruit may also pique curiosity and a willingness to try something different in taste tests.

I think it is great that pupils appreciate getting rewarded with fresh laid eggs and other produce.

To support your plans for more year round growing you may wish to explore green manures to improve soil condition and companion planting for pest control. Further spring bulb planting is planned which will give greater year round gardening opportunities.

Joyce Slater, East Midlands in Bloom Best School Garden Judge

4th July 2017

Cobden Primary School

Mr Mike Stevens
 Cobden Primary School
 Hume Street
 Loughborough
 Leicestershire
 LE11 1AF

Dear Mike, colleagues and children from the gardening club,

Many thanks for making time for me on a day so close to the end of term, to welcome me to your school and show me round the different areas, especially the wild life spaces, the vegetable garden and also the separate area for the pre-school children. I was very impressed by the children's real involvement, knowledge of wildlife and great enthusiasm.

SECTION 1 Gardening Activities, Skills and Knowledge	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Involvement of each class in the garden. No. of pupils			*		
Activities that develop skills and knowledge			*		
Year round gardening/growing activities			*		
Gardening club(s) with regular meetings				*	
Raised beds or plots			*		
Principals of rotation/ timing and growing cycles		*			
Range of crops, annuals, perennials		*			
Basic plant recognition			*		

SECTION 2 Garden's Contribution to Education & the Curriculum	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Classes held outdoors		*			
Imaginative use of the garden in teaching			*		
Wide range of curriculum subjects covered		*			
Use of outdoor classroom			*		
Average time students spend in the garden each week			*		

SECTION 3 Value in sustaining the environment and wildlife	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Effective composting and water collection				*	
Planting to encourage wildlife				*	
Examples of features for wildlife				*	
Evidence of wildlife observation				*	
Student knowledge of wildlife			*		

SECTION 4 Growing Fruit and Vegetables & Healthy Living	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Pupil involvement and knowledge of growing food			*		
Range of fruit, vegetables and herbs grown			*		
Quality of food grown		*			
Making use of food produced		*			
Food awareness from plot to plate			*		

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SECTION 5	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Design, Management and Maintenance					
Overall impression, maintenance, hard landscape features, plant quality.			*		
Garden layout, displays, accessibility, health & safety			*		
Care and maintenance by pupils		*			
Holiday maintenance			*		
Future plans			*		
Links to sponsorship and advice			*		

MARKS AWARDED

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	SECTION 5	TOTAL MARKS
14	15	18	15	16	78

SCHOOL GARDEN AWARD : **Silver Gilt**

Judge's Comments

You have a wonderful resource in the wildlife area and hedges with walkways. The children's involvement, knowledge and enthusiasm are a joy to see. It is evident that the collaboration between staff, parents and children in the gardening club is a good recipe for success, and the plans for planting new areas under trees for spring flowers to provide food for pollinators are excellent.

There was also evidence of cooperation with local business (donations of planters as well as plants for pots and hanging baskets).

It was very good to see that all classes had their own dedicated raised beds which they could care for and harvest, too. The growing areas with flowers contributed greatly to the colourful and friendly appearance of the school, and there was evidence of recycling and ecological learning.

The willow bower is a particularly attractive feature of the school grounds, and I was impressed by the way in which the separate area for pre-school children is designed to allow even the youngest children to get an experience of the outdoors and caring for plants and wildlife. The school's success in gardening knowledge and love of wildlife is in no small measure due to the staff's dedication, energy and enthusiasm.

Martha Wörsching

East Midlands in Bloom Best School Garden Judge

20th July 2017

Coomb Briggs Primary School

Ms Jayne Day
 Coomb Briggs Primary School
 Roval Drive
 Immingham
 North East Lincolnshire DN40 2DY

Dear Jayne

Many thanks for seeing me on the 11th July 2017. I really enjoyed being showed round by Alfie, Ben, Henry, Zac, Adam, Amelia, Joshua, Isabella and Kyle and it was good to speak to staff who all shared your enthusiasm for the gardens. As a Head you lead by example and the use of the outdoors in the curriculum really shines through. Your pupils did a great job of telling me all about the gardens and their contribution and I think your plans for the edibles garden and the quad are going to create even more learning opportunities.

The following shows where I consider you are doing really well and where you are looking to achieve more.

SECTION 1 Gardening Activities, Skills and Knowledge	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Involvement of each class in the garden. No. of pupils				x	
Activities that develop skills and knowledge				x	
Year round gardening/growing activities				x	
Gardening club(s) with regular meetings				x	
Raised beds or plots			x		
Principals of rotation/ timing and growing cycles			x		
Range of crops, annuals, perennials				x	
Basic plant recognition				x	

SECTION 2 Garden's Contribution to Education & the Curriculum	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Classes held outdoors				x	
Imaginative use of the garden in teaching				x	
Wide range of curriculum subjects covered				x	
Use of outdoor classroom			x		
Average time students spend in the garden each week				x	

SECTION 3 Value in sustaining the environment and wildlife	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Effective composting and water collection			x		
Planting to encourage wildlife			x		
Examples of features for wildlife			x		
Evidence of wildlife observation				x	
Student knowledge of wildlife			x		

SECTION 4 Growing Fruit and Vegetables & Healthy Living	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Pupil involvement and knowledge of growing food				x	
Range of fruit, vegetables and herbs grown			x		
Quality of food grown				x	
Making use of food produced				x	
Food awareness from plot to plate				x	

EAST MIDLANDS IN BLOOM BEST SCHOOL GARDEN SPECIAL AWARDS 2017

SECTION 5	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Design, Management and Maintenance					
Overall impression, maintenance, hard landscape features, plant quality.				x	
Garden layout, displays, accessibility, health & safety				x	
Care and maintenance by pupils				x	
Holiday maintenance				x	
Future plans				x	
Links to sponsorship and advice				x	

MARKS AWARDED

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	SECTION 5	TOTAL MARKS
18	19	16	17	19	89

SCHOOL GARDEN AWARD: GOLD

Judge's Comments

There was a very impressive integration of the gardens, gardening and the natural environment into the whole curriculum across all key stages. The whole school is engaged and the garden's impact on behaviour is a credit to the school and your leadership.

The understanding of food to plate was excellent and showed the children the benefits of growing their food as well as the wider farming environment and the role of supermarkets. The farm shop project was particularly impressive as were the diaries of a bean plant.

The vegetable garden is in transition and this is reflected in the marks. The new deep beds are going to be a great opportunity to grow a wide range of edibles and demonstrate crop rotations. They will need to be carefully positioned to ensure pathways between them are fully accessible for wheelchair users. They will also create an ideal opportunity to help children learn about soil management and you may want to explore the use of green manures to support year round growing.

The recycled pipes with alpines in them are an inspiring way of allowing children to appreciate a range of small and beautiful plants that need a different sort of growing environment.

Plans for the quad garden are very interesting and will create a different growing opportunity. It may well suit dry gardening or tropical planting.

Joyce Slater

East Midlands in Bloom Best School Garden Judge

Visit date 11th July 2017

Delapre Primary School

Alison Feetham
 Delapre Primary School
 50 Rothersthorpe Road
 Northampton
 NN4 8JB

Dear Alison

Many thanks to you, Alice, Sammy and Benjamin for showing me around your garden. I was impressed with the range of plants being grown given the very limited access to open soil on this site.

The following shows where I consider you are doing well and where you are looking to achieve more. I hope this is helpful.

SECTION 1 Gardening Activities, Skills and Knowledge	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Does not apply
Involvement of each class in the garden. No. of pupils			X		
Activities that develop skills and knowledge			X		
Year round gardening/growing activities	X				
Gardening club(s) with regular meetings	X				
Raised beds or plots		X			
Principals of rotation/ timing and growing cycles		X	X		
Range of crops, annuals, perennials					
Basic plant recognition		X			

SECTION 2 Garden's Contribution to Education & the Curriculum	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Does not apply
Classes held outdoors				X	
Imaginative use of the garden in teaching			X		
Wide range of curriculum subjects covered		X			
Use of outdoor classroom					X
Average time students spend in the garden each week		X			

SECTION 3 Value in sustaining the environment and wildlife	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Does not apply
Effective composting and water collection	X				
Planting to encourage wildlife				X	
Examples of features for wildlife			X		
Evidence of wildlife observation				X	
Student knowledge of wildlife			X		

SECTION 4 Growing Fruit and Vegetables & Healthy Living	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Does not apply
Pupil involvement and knowledge of growing food				X	
Range of fruit, vegetables and herbs grown		X			
Quality of food grown			X		
Making use of food produced				X	
Food awareness from plot to plate				X	

EAST MIDLANDS IN BLOOM BEST SCHOOL GARDEN SPECIAL AWARDS 2017

SECTION 5 Design, Management and Maintenance	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Does not apply
Overall impression, maintenance, hard landscape features, plant quality.		X			
Care and maintenance by pupils			X		
Garden layout, displays, accessibility, health & safety			X		
Holiday maintenance			X		
Future plans		X			
Links to sponsorship and advice		X			

MARKS AWARDED

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	SECTION 5	TOTAL MARKS
13	11	16	17	13	70

SCHOOL GARDEN AWARD: SILVER

Judges Comments

Your school is situated in the middle of a large area of housing and as a result has a very limited area of ground in which to garden. To off-set this, large tubs have been placed along the side of the building adjacent to the hard play area which have been planted up with flowers and some vegetables. The garden area is a relatively small fenced area but a lot has been packed into it. It also contains a pond, bug hotel, wormery and your tool shed. As you have such a small area of ground I would have liked to see better use made of the wild areas at the back of the garden, part of which is a large ants nest which, for some children will limit where they can go in the garden.

All produce from the garden is given to the members of the Gardening Club, which numbers 15 – 20 children, as the school does not have its own kitchens and the two members of the club I spoke to were very knowledgeable and enthusiastic. Along with the produce the children are also given brilliant work sheets produced by the parent volunteers who run the club, which give a recipe for using the vegetables they have as well as things children can do at home, such as making a hanging garden from an old shoe holder.

Producing compost is proving difficult because of the location of the compost bin behind the ants nest and this is something that I think needs to be looked at. Conserving water from the shed would also prove beneficial.

With such a limited space there is not a great opportunity for it to be used as an outdoor classroom for teaching but it is used for wildlife and science projects.

I look forward to visiting you again next year.

Malcolm Brown

East Midlands in Bloom Best School Garden Judge

5th July 2017

EAST MIDLANDS IN BLOOM BEST SCHOOL GARDEN SPECIAL AWARDS 2017

Kay Smith
Desford Community Primary School
Kirkby Road,
Desford
Leicestershire LE9 9JH

Dear Kay,

I was very pleased that you entered your school garden. The enthusiasm and hard work of you and Becca, Lisa and Jo has helped to create a wonderful environment for the children and teachers to use. You have achieved such a lot. Please thank all the children who showed me around the garden and talking to me so knowledgeably about their specialist areas.

SECTION 1 Gardening Activities, Skills and Knowledge	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Involvement of each class in the garden. No. of pupils			*		
Activities that develop skills and knowledge			*		
Year round gardening/growing activities			*		
Gardening club(s) with regular meetings				*	
Raised beds or plots			*		
Principals of rotation/ timing and growing cycles	*				
Range of crops, annuals, perennials			*		
Basic plant recognition				*	

SECTION 2 Garden's Contribution to Education & the Curriculum	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Classes held outdoors			*		
Imaginative use of the garden in teaching				*	
Wide range of curriculum subjects covered			*		
Use of outdoor classroom				*	
Average time students spend in the garden each week				*	

SECTION 3 Value in sustaining the environment and wildlife	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Effective composting and water collection			*		
Planting to encourage wildlife				*	
Examples of features for wildlife				*	
Evidence of wildlife observation			*		
Student knowledge of wildlife			*		

SECTION 4 Growing Fruit and Vegetables & Healthy Living	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Pupil involvement and knowledge of growing food			*		
Range of fruit, vegetables and herbs grown			*		
Quality of food grown			*		
Making use of food produced		*			
Food awareness from plot to plate				*	

EAST MIDLANDS IN BLOOM BEST SCHOOL GARDEN SPECIAL AWARDS 2017

SECTION 5 Design, Management and Maintenance	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Overall impression, maintenance, hard landscape features, plant quality.				*	
Garden layout, displays, accessibility, health & safety				*	
Care and maintenance by pupils			*		
Holiday maintenance			*		
Future plans				*	
Links to sponsorship and advice				*	

MARKS AWARDED

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	SECTION 5	TOTAL MARKS
17	19	17	17	19	89

SCHOOL GARDEN AWARD: GOLD and BEST ORNAMENTAL GARDEN

Judge's Comments

You have a great range of fruit, vegetables, herbs, annuals and perennials and it was impressive that the children recognised and named what had been grown and planted. You have several areas of interest around the school and a lot of thought and planning has gone into creating an excellent garden resource for the children who are clearly making use of it. The garden was a delight to walk around.

You make good use of raised beds to produce food and it was pleasing to note that children are able to eat some of their produce in school. Hope the Maris Piper potatoes were really good!

I am keeping my fingers crossed that you have tawny owls using the owl boxes soon!

You have some good ideas for the future and I hope the water butts and wormery are a great success.

I look forward to seeing this and other plans at a future visit.

Judith Warner
East Midlands in Bloom Best School Garden Judge

7th July 2017

Dixie Grammar School

Judy Buckell
 Dixie Grammar School
 12 Market Place
 Market Bosworth
 Leicestershire
 CV13 0LE

Dear Judy,

We were all very pleased that you entered your school garden. Your enthusiasm and hard work has helped you to achieve such a lot in a very small amount of time each week. Please thank Lucia and Isabelle for showing us the work they and the other 'Dixie Diggers' had done. We were pleased that they had enjoyed the strawberries. The following shows where we consider you are doing well and where you are looking to achieve more.

SECTION 1 Gardening Activities, Skills and Knowledge	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Involvement of each class in the garden. No. of pupils	*				
Activities that develop skills and knowledge				*	
Year round gardening/growing activities			*		
Gardening club(s) with regular meetings				*	
Raised beds or plots		*			
Principals of rotation/ timing and growing cycles	*				
Range of crops, annuals, perennials		*			
Basic plant recognition	*				

SECTION 2 Garden's Contribution to Education & the Curriculum	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Classes held outdoors	*				
Imaginative use of the garden in teaching		*			
Wide range of curriculum subjects covered	*				
Use of outdoor classroom	*				
Average time students spend in the garden each week	*				

SECTION 3 Value in sustaining the environment and wildlife	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Effective composting and water collection	*				
Planting to encourage wildlife		*			
Examples of features for wildlife		*			
Evidence of wildlife observation		*			
Student knowledge of wildlife		*			

SECTION 4 Growing Fruit and Vegetables & Healthy Living	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Pupil involvement and knowledge of growing food		*			
Range of fruit, vegetables and herbs grown	*				
Quality of food grown		*			
Making use of food produced	*				
Food awareness from plot to plate		*			

EAST MIDLANDS IN BLOOM BEST SCHOOL GARDEN SPECIAL AWARDS 2017

SECTION 5 Design, Management and Maintenance	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Overall impression, maintenance, hard landscape features, plant quality.		*			
Garden layout, displays, accessibility, health & safety		*			
Care and maintenance by pupils		*			
Holiday maintenance		*			
Future plans		*			
Links to sponsorship and advice		*			

MARKS AWARDED

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	SECTION 5	TOTAL MARKS
10	2	7	7	8	34

SCHOOL GARDEN AWARD: CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

Judge's Comments

The school has a very good outside resource around its buildings that could help make many parts of the curriculum more interesting for the pupils. It was pleasing to note that the school has plans for a wildlife area and a heritage orchard. The pond is to have a liner which will make it a valuable asset for some lessons. The garden already has homes for insects and bird tables. The school does a lot of recycling and it's 6th Form helped Bosworth in Bloom by designing the border at the front entrance.

It was very pleasing to know that the 'Dixie Diggers' experience the problems of gardening and follow things that occur and interest them e.g. watching lizards.

You make use of the greenhouse and grow plants from seed. The children develop various skills allowing them to sow, prick out, pot on and finally plant what they have grown. Flowers and produce such as daffodils and radishes have been taken home, and tomatoes and carrots should be available at the start of the next school year.

We hope the Wheelbarrow Challenge is successful and helps Bosworth in Bloom.

For a first entry we all felt you had done very well and we look forward to coming again next year.

Graham Lamb

East Midlands in Bloom Best School Garden Judge

Gosberton House School

Lee Gregory
 Gosberton House School
 11 Westhorpe Road
 Gosberton
 Nr Spalding
 Lincolnshire PE11 4EW

Dear Lee,

Thank you for accommodating my visit on July 3rd. I enjoyed being shown around by Tom, Brayden, Peter, Jacob and Hannah and I was impressed with so much that the whole team had worked on in your beautiful school grounds.

The following shows where I consider you are doing well and where you are looking to achieve more. I hope this is helpful.

SECTION 1 Gardening Activities, Skills and Knowledge	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Involvement of each class in the garden. No. of pupils				*	
Activities that develop skills and knowledge				*	
Year round gardening/growing activities			*		
Gardening club(s) with regular meetings			*		
Raised beds or plots			*		
Principals of rotation/ timing and growing cycles		*			
Range of crops, annuals, perennials			*		
Basic plant recognition			*		

SECTION 2 Garden's Contribution to Education & the Curriculum	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Classes held outdoors				*	
Imaginative use of the garden in teaching			*		
Wide range of curriculum subjects covered				*	
Use of outdoor classroom				*	
Average time students spend in the garden each week				*	

SECTION 3 Value in sustaining the environment and wildlife	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Effective composting and water collection			*		
Planting to encourage wildlife				*	
Examples of features for wildlife			*		
Evidence of wildlife observation			*		
Student knowledge of wildlife				*	

SECTION 4 Growing Fruit and Vegetables & Healthy Living	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Pupil involvement and knowledge of growing food			*		
Range of fruit, vegetables and herbs grown				*	
Quality of food grown			*		
Making use of food produced				*	
Food awareness from plot to plate				*	

EAST MIDLANDS IN BLOOM BEST SCHOOL GARDEN SPECIAL AWARDS 2017

SECTION 5	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Design, Management and Maintenance					
Overall impression, maintenance, hard landscape features, plant quality.			*		
Garden layout, displays, accessibility, health & safety				*	
Care and maintenance by pupils			*		
Holiday maintenance			*		
Future plans				*	
Links to sponsorship and advice				*	

MARKS AWARDED

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	SECTION 5	TOTAL MARKS
19	20	17	18	17	91

SCHOOL GARDEN AWARD: GOLD

Judges Comments

What a delightful visit to this very special school with keen and excited green fingered young gardeners! I was shown around the extensive grounds by Peter, Jacob, Hannah, Tom and Brayden, with their teacher Miss Lee Gregory. I was lucky enough to visit the day after their National Open Gardens weekend so was treated to some special themed gardens alongside the children's usual garden plots and raised beds. They have just completed their level 5 RHS Award for schools gardening and so are justly proud of their efforts, to quote Miss Gregory, "They are never in". The outdoors for these children is second nature in their curriculum, daily life and learning: it builds on their natural curiosity and enthusiasm and for some opens doorways for their future ambitions for work. Many have gone home to create their own 'patch' in which to grow not only vegetables or flowers but in themselves. Gardening at Gosberton House Special School is a key feature in the lives of these young people and staff and the children's enthusiasm is infectious.

Emma Schofield

East Midlands in Bloom Best School Garden Judge

3rd July 2017

Holy Trinity Catholic Academy

Ms Christine Smith
 Holy Trinity Catholic Academy
 Boundary Road
 Newark
 Nottinghamshire
 NG24 4AU

Dear Christine

Many thanks for seeing me on the 4th July 2017. I really enjoyed being showed round by Lena, Daisy, Abi, Zak, Joel and Mrs Hayes and they did a great job of telling me all about the garden and your eco – land as it is now and your ambitious future plans for it.

The following shows where I consider you are doing really well and where you are looking to achieve more.

SECTION 1 Gardening Activities, Skills and Knowledge	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Involvement of each class in the garden. No. of pupils				x	
Activities that develop skills and knowledge				x	
Year round gardening/growing activities				x	
Gardening club(s) with regular meetings				x	
Raised beds or plots				x	
Principals of rotation/ timing and growing cycles		x			
Range of crops, annuals, perennials			x		
Basic plant recognition				x	

SECTION 2 Garden's Contribution to Education & the Curriculum	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Classes held outdoors			x		
Imaginative use of the garden in teaching			x		
Wide range of curriculum subjects covered			x		
Use of outdoor classroom				x	
Average time students spend in the garden each week				x	

SECTION 3 Value in sustaining the environment and wildlife	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Effective composting and water collection				x	
Planting to encourage wildlife				x	
Examples of features for wildlife				x	
Evidence of wildlife observation				x	
Student knowledge of wildlife				x	

SECTION 4 Growing Fruit and Vegetables & Healthy Living	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Pupil involvement and knowledge of growing food			x		
Range of fruit, vegetables and herbs grown			x		
Quality of food grown			x		
Making use of food produced			x		
Food awareness from plot to plate			x		

EAST MIDLANDS IN BLOOM BEST SCHOOL GARDEN SPECIAL AWARDS 2017

SECTION 5 Design, Management and Maintenance	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Overall impression, maintenance, hard landscape features, plant quality.				x	
Garden layout, displays, accessibility, health & safety				x	
Care and maintenance by pupils				x	
Holiday maintenance				x	
Future plans				x	
Links to sponsorship and advice				x	

MARKS AWARDED

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	SECTION 5	TOTAL MARKS
19	17	20	16	19	91

SCHOOL GARDEN AWARD: GOLD and BEST WILDLIFE GARDEN

Judge's Comments

Your Wildlife / environmental / eco-land is outstanding and you make excellent use of the diverse environmental opportunities it offers for all the school. Your continuing development of it is impressive.

Your planted borders, especially those extended this year, have been a great success and have led to some good skills development in those children who attend your club. It will be great to see even more pupils involved in the gardening activities.

Your plans for edible growing, including the redevelopment of the raised beds, will allow greater scope for more plot to plate activities year-round. This will make it more relevant for integration into all levels of the curriculum.

Your new polytunnel (to replace the small one damaged in winds) will make a huge difference to the range of plants grown and the number of children who can be involved across all key stages.

Plans for new garden in front of tarmac area, to include vertical planting, are very exciting as well as challenging and will give great scope for wider community engagement through the church next door.

The training day for staff to promote outside based learning to meet the curriculum was a great initiative and it will be good to see even more evidence of its increased use in science, language and literacy, the arts and the world around us.

Joyce Slater

East Midlands in Bloom Best School Garden Judge

Visit date 4th July 2017

Leighfield Primary School

Debbie Sedgwick & Hannah Roddy
Leighfield Primary School
Newtown Road
Uppingham
Rutland LE15 9TS

Dear Debbie and Hannah,

Many thanks for making time for me on a day so close to the end of term, to welcome me to your school and show me around the garden, especially the wild life area and the vegetable garden. I was really very impressed with what I saw.

SECTION 1 Gardening Activities, Skills and Knowledge	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Involvement of each class in the garden. No. of pupils			*		
Activities that develop skills and knowledge				*	
Year round gardening/growing activities				*	
Gardening club(s) with regular meetings				*	
Raised beds or plots				*	
Principals of rotation/ timing and growing cycles			*		
Range of crops, annuals, perennials			*		
Basic plant recognition			*		

SECTION 2 Garden's Contribution to Education & the Curriculum	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Classes held outdoors			*		
Imaginative use of the garden in teaching				*	
Wide range of curriculum subjects covered				*	
Use of outdoor classroom				*	
Average time students spend in the garden each week			*		

SECTION 3 Value in sustaining the environment and wildlife	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Effective composting and water collection				*	
Planting to encourage wildlife				*	
Examples of features for wildlife				*	
Evidence of wildlife observation			*		
Student knowledge of wildlife		*			

SECTION 4 Growing Fruit and Vegetables & Healthy Living	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Pupil involvement and knowledge of growing food			*		
Range of fruit, vegetables and herbs grown				*	
Quality of food grown				*	
Making use of food produced				*	
Food awareness from plot to plate			*		

EAST MIDLANDS IN BLOOM BEST SCHOOL GARDEN SPECIAL AWARDS 2017

SECTION 5	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Design, Management and Maintenance					
Overall impression, maintenance, hard landscape features, plant quality.				*	
Garden layout, displays, accessibility, health & safety				*	
Care and maintenance by pupils			*		
Holiday maintenance			*		
Future plans				*	
Links to sponsorship and advice				*	

MARKS AWARDED

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	SECTION 5	TOTAL MARKS
18	18	18	17	18	89

SCHOOL GARDEN AWARD: GOLD

Judge's Comments

You have a wonderful resource in the wildlife area which is relatively new, but show excellent input from the children and parents (new outdoor furniture built with funding from the Co-op), with 'nests' made by children around the ponds between tree roots and nice spaces to discover wildlife between the remaining woods and hedges. There is a lot of evidence of links with the science and also cookery/food curriculum (elderflower cordial) as well as creative writing ('dream-catchers' made of willow from the willow bower).

Even though none of the children came to show me around, I saw the enthusiasm of a whole class of infants with their willow project, making 'dream-catchers'; all children can be in the lunch-time gardening club, and many spend playtime in the gardening area too, while the work of after-school and Saturday working parties with children, parents and teachers was evident in the wildlife area as well as the vegetable garden.

There was also evidence of cooperation with local business and farming (visits to a farm in Loddington), and the plans for a plant trial this autumn with a local farmer (planting at school and farm to observe growing conditions) highlight the continued integration of gardening and food production/consumption in the curriculum.

Martha Wörsching

East Midlands in Bloom Best School Garden Judge

20th July 2017

Long Sutton County Primary School

Claire Carr & Lindsey Kirkham
 Long Sutton County Primary School
 Long Sutton
 Spalding
 Lincolnshire PE12 9EP

Dear Claire & Lindsey,

Thank you for accommodating my visit on July 7th. I enjoyed being shown around and was impressed with so much that the whole team had worked on in your beautiful school grounds.

The following shows where I consider you are doing well and where you are looking to achieve more. I hope this is helpful.

SECTION 1 Gardening Activities, Skills and Knowledge	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Involvement of each class in the garden. No. of pupils	*				
Activities that develop skills and knowledge			*		
Year round gardening/growing activities			*		
Gardening club(s) with regular meetings			*		
Raised beds or plots			*		
Principals of rotation/ timing and growing cycles		*			
Range of crops, annuals, perennials			*		
Basic plant recognition		*			

SECTION 2 Garden's Contribution to Education & the Curriculum	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Classes held outdoors			*		
Imaginative use of the garden in teaching		*			
Wide range of curriculum subjects covered			*		
Use of outdoor classroom				*	
Average time students spend in the garden each week			*		

SECTION 3 Value in sustaining the environment and wildlife	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Effective composting and water collection			*		
Planting to encourage wildlife				*	
Examples of features for wildlife			*		
Evidence of wildlife observation			*		
Student knowledge of wildlife			*		

SECTION 4 Growing Fruit and Vegetables & Healthy Living	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Pupil involvement and knowledge of growing food			*		
Range of fruit, vegetables and herbs grown			*		
Quality of food grown			*		
Making use of food produced				*	
Food awareness from plot to plate				*	

EAST MIDLANDS IN BLOOM BEST SCHOOL GARDEN SPECIAL AWARDS 2017

SECTION 5	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Design, Management and Maintenance					
Overall impression, maintenance, hard landscape features, plant quality.			*		
Garden layout, displays, accessibility, health & safety		*			
Care and maintenance by pupils		*			
Holiday maintenance			*		
Future plans				*	
Links to sponsorship and advice				*	

MARKS AWARDED

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	SECTION 5	TOTAL MARKS
16	15	17	17	18	83

SCHOOL GARDEN AWARD: SILVER GILT

Judges Comments:

What a delightful visit to this welcoming primary school accompanied by their green fingered young gardeners! I was shown around the extensive grounds by Bethan, Holly, Chloe, Abi and Jayden with Miss O'Dwyer, Mrs Carr and Mrs Kirkham. You have grown a range of fruit, vegetables, herbs, annuals and perennials and it was good that the children knew many of their names. I liked the developing wild area and naturalised ponds. You have several areas of interest around the school and a lot of thought and planning is creating an excellent resource for the children who are clearly making more use of it, including your bush craft area, raised beds and developing forest area. In your vegetable raised beds you had some lovely companion planting to encourage the pollinators to visit. I look forward, at a future visit, to seeing your future plans for the development of the polytunnel for all classes to become more involved and your other plans, including the refurbishment of the Bug Hotel, woodland area and classroom gardens.

Emma Schofield

East Midlands in Bloom Best School Garden Judge

7th July 2017

Lyncrest Primary School

Mrs Sally O'Neill
Lyncrest Primary School
Lyncrest Avenue
Northampton
NN5 5PE

Dear Mrs O'Neill

Thanks go to you and Ruth Harding for showing me round the school gardens. Please also thank all the children, too many to mention here, for all their enthusiasm and information.

The following shows where I consider you are doing well and where you are looking to achieve more. I hope this is helpful

SECTION 1 Gardening Activities, Skills and Knowledge	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Involvement of each class in the garden. No. of pupils		X			
Activities that develop skills and knowledge		X			
Year round gardening/growing activities		X			
Gardening club(s) with regular meetings			X		
Raised beds or plots			X		
Principals of rotation/ timing and growing cycles		X			
Range of crops, annuals, perennials		X			
Basic plant recognition			X		

SECTION 2 Garden's Contribution to Education & the Curriculum	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Classes held outdoors		X			
Use of outdoor classroom		X			
Imaginative use of the garden in teaching	X				
Wide range of curriculum subjects covered			X		
Average time students spend in the garden each week	X				

SECTION 3 Value in sustaining the environment and wildlife	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Effective composting and water collection			X		
Planting to encourage wildlife		X			
Examples of features for wildlife				X	
Evidence of wildlife observation				X	
Student knowledge of wildlife			X		

SECTION 4 Growing Fruit and Vegetables & Healthy Living	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Pupil involvement and knowledge of growing food		X			
Range of fruit, vegetables and herbs grown			X		
Quality of food grown		X			
Making use of food produced				X	
Food awareness from plot to plate				X	

EAST MIDLANDS IN BLOOM BEST SCHOOL GARDEN SPECIAL AWARDS 2017

SECTION 5 Design, Management and Maintenance	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Overall impression, maintenance, hard landscape features, plant quality.		X			
Garden layout, displays, accessibility, health & safety			X		
Care and maintenance by pupils			X		
Holiday maintenance		X			
Future plans	X				
Links to sponsorship and advice			X		

MARKS AWARDED

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	SECTION 5	TOTAL MARKS
13	12	16	15	14	70

SCHOOL GARDEN AWARD: SILVER

Judges Comments

Lyncrest School is very fortunate in that the school is surrounded within its boundary by a grassed area and this has been put to good use to provide areas for growing flowers and vegetables.

I was first taken to the Nursery where I was shown what the pre-school children have done and do. In the autumn every child gets to plant a bulb around the nursery area. There is a sitting area with a sedum roof and a mud kitchen so they get used to getting dirty, as well as the usual play equipment. In the classroom there is a bird observation window with picture check lists of what they might see. Bird boxes are located in the tree opposite this window with a feeder attached to the window.

Beyond the nursery area there is an area with compost bins, a hedgehog house and a bug hotel that all the children in the school helped construct. Dotted around the school are several trees each with bird boxes in.

Outside one of the classroom blocks is a row of planters with flowers and some herbs, and between them are slatted seats. These planters are tended by the children from these classes. Around the school and indeed just outside the main gate are planters and wild flower areas that improve the look of the school. In the beds the majority of plants are labelled using upturned plant pots with the plant name painted on them.

The main vegetable growing area is beyond a living willow structure that is used as an outdoor classroom and reading or quiet area. Here there are some deep beds that appear to have been in for some time and are in need of repair in places. The soil in them is not particularly good but when funds are limited one uses what is available. However by applying the compost from the bins in the autumn and allowing the worms to do their work over winter this can be improved.

These beds are looked after by six children on Tuesday lunchtimes under the supervision of the Head teacher, who is retiring at the end of term but I am told that another teacher will be taking over. The philosophy across the school is that the children do all the work but guided by the staff. There is great potential here for some good vegetables to be grown in this area if the soil can be improved and more time given to it by the children. With only 6 children and such a short time it is no wonder that the bindweed is taking over. If the Garden Club could be developed to involve more children and more time given to it, that would greatly improve the look and productivity of the beds. The produce from these beds is used in the small kitchen on site for cookery classes for the children so they understand 'from plot to plate'.

**Malcolm Brown
East Midlands in Bloom Best School Garden Judge
7 July 2017**

Market Harborough Church of England Academy

Market Harborough Church of England Academy
Fairfield Road
Market Harborough
Leicestershire
LE16 9QH

Dear Kimberley and Andrea,

Our thanks for again entering your school garden: it continues to improve, thanks to your continued efforts and the hard work you and your garden club put in. Please thank Jemina, Lilia and Soraiya for showing us round and answering a lot of questions.

The following shows where we consider you are doing well and where you are looking to achieve more.

SECTION 1 Gardening Activities, Skills and Knowledge	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Involvement of each class in the garden. No. of pupils			*		
Activities that develop skills and knowledge			*		
Year round gardening/growing activities				*	
Gardening club(s) with regular meetings				*	
Raised beds or plots				*	
Principals of rotation/ timing and growing cycles		*			
Range of crops, annuals, perennials				*	
Basic plant recognition				*	

SECTION 2 Garden's Contribution to Education & the Curriculum	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Classes held outdoors		*			
Imaginative use of the garden in teaching		*			
Wide range of curriculum subjects covered				*	
Use of outdoor classroom					*
Average time students spend in the garden each week			*		

SECTION 3 Value in sustaining the environment and wildlife	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Effective composting and water collection		*			
Planting to encourage wildlife		*			
Examples of features for wildlife				*	
Evidence of wildlife observation			*		
Student knowledge of wildlife				*	

SECTION 4 Growing Fruit and Vegetables & Healthy Living	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Pupil involvement and knowledge of growing food			*		
Range of fruit, vegetables and herbs grown				*	
Quality of food grown		*			
Making use of food produced				*	
Food awareness from plot to plate				*	

EAST MIDLANDS IN BLOOM BEST SCHOOL GARDEN SPECIAL AWARDS 2017

SECTION 5	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Design, Management and Maintenance					
Overall impression, maintenance, hard landscape features, plant quality.			*		
Garden layout, displays, accessibility, health & safety				*	
Care and maintenance by pupils		*			
Holiday maintenance		*			
Future plans				*	
Links to sponsorship and advice				*	

MARKS AWARDED

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	SECTION 5	TOTAL MARKS
17	15	15	17	16	80

SCHOOL GARDEN AWARD: SILVER GILT

Judge's Comments

You have a great range of fruit, vegetables, herbs, annuals and perennials and it was good that the children knew many of their names. We liked the Discovery Shed and pond area. You have several areas of interest around the school and a lot of thought and planning is creating an excellent resource for the children who are clearly making more use of it.

You make good use of raised beds to produce food and it was pleasing to note that children are able to use it in cookery classes, e.g. making Rhubarb Crumble.

With a polytunnel planned, you will be able to achieve even more and, perhaps, it will be big enough for classes to make use of it. We hope you manage to get a lot of Tesco tokens.

We look forward to seeing this and other the plans for composting, watering and the refurbishment of the Bug Hotel at a future visit.

Graham Lamb

East Midlands in Bloom Best School Garden Judge

14th June 2017

Merton Primary School

Claire Eastman
Merton Primary School
Cherry Drive
Syston
Leicestershire
LE7 2PT

Dear Claire,

Many thanks for making time for me on a day so close to the end of term and to welcome me to your school. Many thanks also to Elle-Louise, Clemme, Callum, Reece and Daniel for showing me around their vegetable, wild flower and strawberry beds and even offering me a very tasty ripe berry! I was impressed by the children's real involvement, plant knowledge and great enthusiasm.

SECTION 1 Gardening Activities, Skills and Knowledge	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Involvement of each class in the garden. No. of pupils		*			
Activities that develop skills and knowledge		*			
Year round gardening/growing activities	*				
Gardening club(s) with regular meetings		*			
Raised beds or plots			*		
Principals of rotation/ timing and growing cycles		*			
Range of crops, annuals, perennials		*			
Basic plant recognition			*		

SECTION 2 Garden's Contribution to Education & the Curriculum	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Classes held outdoors		*			
Imaginative use of the garden in teaching		*			
Wide range of curriculum subjects covered		*			
Use of outdoor classroom		*			
Average time students spend in the garden each week		*			

SECTION 3 Value in sustaining the environment and wildlife	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Effective composting and water collection					*
Planting to encourage wildlife		*			
Examples of features for wildlife	*				
Evidence of wildlife observation	*				
Student knowledge of wildlife		*			

SECTION 4 Growing Fruit and Vegetables & Healthy Living	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Pupil involvement and knowledge of growing food			*		
Range of fruit, vegetables and herbs grown			*		
Quality of food grown			*		
Making use of food produced			*		
Food awareness from plot to plate		*			

EAST MIDLANDS IN BLOOM BEST SCHOOL GARDEN SPECIAL AWARDS 2017

SECTION 5 Design, Management and Maintenance	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Overall impression, maintenance, hard landscape features, plant quality.		*			
Garden layout, displays, accessibility, health & safety		*			
Care and maintenance by pupils		*			
Holiday maintenance	*				
Future plans					*
Links to sponsorship and advice					*

MARKS AWARDED

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	SECTION 5	TOTAL MARKS
12	9	6	5	9	41

SCHOOL GARDEN AWARD: CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

Judge's Comments

You have a very well kept fenced garden with good quality seasonal vegetables, fruit, herbs and flowers. I really enjoyed speaking with the children from different age groups, and it was nice to see so many enthusiastic boys and girls involved in the gardening club. Unfortunately, Mr Bayley, a local gardener who seems to be very actively leading the group, was not able to be there when I came, and I did not manage to find out whether there was any regular parental involvement with the gardening club.

It was good to find that some of the produce, for instance potatoes, is used in the school kitchen, and the children recently took home beetroot and strawberries they had grown themselves.

I tried to get some information how gardening and care for the environment are actively linked, as your large green spaces are right next to a park and open fields, so I wondered whether there were any opportunities to link animal and wildlife education to sustainable gardening; unfortunately, there was not enough time to get a clearer picture on this. I also did not find out more about any plans for future projects or how the gardening activities are carried through from year to year.

Martha Wörsching

East Midlands in Bloom Best School Garden Judge

20th July 2017

Oak Field School and Sports College

Michelle O'Malley
Oak Field School and Sports College
Wigman Road
Bilborough
Nottingham
NG8 3HW

Dear Michelle,

I was very pleased that you entered your school garden. Your enthusiasm and hard work has helped to create a wonderful environment for the children and teachers to use. You have achieved a lot. Please thank Siobhan and Hannif for showing me around the gardens and to Kathy for a warm welcome.

SECTION 1 Gardening Activities, Skills and Knowledge	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Involvement of each class in the garden. No. of pupils			*		
Activities that develop skills and knowledge			*		
Year round gardening/growing activities		*			
Gardening club(s) with regular meetings		*			
Raised beds or plots			*		
Principals of rotation/ timing and growing cycles					*
Range of crops, annuals, perennials			*		
Basic plant recognition					*

SECTION 2 Garden's Contribution to Education & the Curriculum	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Classes held outdoors			*		
Imaginative use of the garden in teaching			*		
Wide range of curriculum subjects covered					*
Use of outdoor classroom			*		
Average time students spend in the garden each week					

SECTION 3 Value in sustaining the environment and wildlife	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Effective composting and water collection		*			
Planting to encourage wildlife				*	
Examples of features for wildlife				*	
Evidence of wildlife observation			*		
Student knowledge of wildlife					*

SECTION 4 Growing Fruit and Vegetables & Healthy Living	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Pupil involvement and knowledge of growing food		*			
Range of fruit, vegetables and herbs grown			*		
Quality of food grown		*			
Making use of food produced				*	
Food awareness from plot to plate		*			

EAST MIDLANDS IN BLOOM BEST SCHOOL GARDEN SPECIAL AWARDS 2017

SECTION 5 Design, Management and Maintenance	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Overall impression, maintenance, hard landscape features, plant quality.			*		
Garden layout, displays, accessibility, health & safety			*		
Care and maintenance by pupils			*		
Holiday maintenance		*			
Future plans		*			
Links to sponsorship and advice		*			

MARKS AWARDED

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	SECTION 5	TOTAL MARKS
15	13	13	18	16	75

SCHOOL GARDEN AWARD: SILVER GILT

Judge's Comments

It was good to see the different garden areas you have for various age groups of children. Each area was interesting and ranged from the Key Stage 4 children who were growing herbs and fruit and vegetables to the Early Years who had willow tunnels and sensory water features. In other areas there were raised beds, use of recycling materials with vegetables and flowers and many sunflowers!

I hope they all bloom soon.

The wildlife garden was a lovely area to use as an outside classroom and the Reflection Garden was so peaceful. The flowers being tended by Hannif were in full bloom today.

The idea of celebrating Bastille Day with the plants chosen for their colours was such a good idea especially being as they were at the front of the school for all to see.

I hope that the orchard will produce many apples so you can make apple juice again this year. It makes my mouth water just thinking of it!

I look forward to seeing your revamped bug hotel and other plans for the garden at a future visit.

Judith Warner
East Midlands in Bloom Best School Garden Judge

20th July 2017

Rosliston Church of England Primary School

Mrs E Greenwood & Mrs S Marbrow
 Rosliston Church of England Primary School
 Main Street
 Rosliston
 Swadlincote
 Derbyshire
 DE12 8JW

Dear Liz and Steph,

It was good to meet both of you and see the garden and of course meet some of the enthusiastic members of the school gardening club. The following scheme shows where you are doing well and where you might be able to achieve more.

SECTION 1 Gardening Activities, Skills and Knowledge	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Involvement of each class in the garden. No. of pupils	*				
Activities that develop skills and knowledge			*		
Year round gardening/growing activities	*				
Gardening club(s) with regular meetings				*	
Raised beds or plots			*		
Principals of rotation/ timing and growing cycles			*		
Range of crops, annuals, perennials			*		
Basic plant recognition			*		

SECTION 2 Garden's Contribution to Education & the Curriculum	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Classes held outdoors			*		
Imaginative use of the garden in teaching			*		
Wide range of curriculum subjects covered			*		
Use of outdoor classroom			*		
Average time students spend in the garden each week			*		

SECTION 3 Value in sustaining the environment and wildlife	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Effective composting and water collection	*				
Planting to encourage wildlife			*		
Examples of features for wildlife			*		
Evidence of wildlife observation			*		
Student knowledge of wildlife				*	

SECTION 4 Growing Fruit and Vegetables & Healthy Living	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Pupil involvement and knowledge of growing food				*	
Range of fruit, vegetables and herbs grown				*	
Quality of food grown				*	
Making use of food produced			*		
Food awareness from plot to plate			*		

EAST MIDLANDS IN BLOOM BEST SCHOOL GARDEN SPECIAL AWARDS 2017

SECTION 5 Design, Management and Maintenance	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Overall impression, maintenance, hard landscape features, plant quality.			*		
Garden layout, displays, accessibility, health & safety				*	
Care and maintenance by pupils				*	
Holiday maintenance			*		
Future plans			*		
Links to sponsorship and advice					*

MARKS AWARDED

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	SECTION 5	TOTAL MARKS
16	16	17	17	17	83

SCHOOL GARDEN AWARD: SILVER GILT

Judge's Comments

You have been involved with gardening for schools for several years and have a lovely well established garden area with raised beds, poly-tunnel, small pond, bug hotel and a developing wildflower meadow area. It was good to see the garden being used in imaginative ways within the local community such as hosting your own and neighbouring schools' scarecrow entries from a recent festival and evidence that the garden had just been opened as part of Rosliston Open Gardens. The School also planted the pots outside the church door and you are hosting an RHS course on running a school garden in November.

The children clearly enjoy gardening as part of the garden club which is held weekly after school during the spring, summer and autumn. The children had an impressive amount of knowledge of the various areas within the garden and have enjoyed picking and tasting the food. The reception class spends every Friday afternoon in the garden or poly-tunnel and other classes including science and maths are occasionally held in the outdoor classroom.

You had an impressive variety of edibles including fruit and vegetables in the raised beds, fruit trees and imaginative use of other spaces such as an old wheelbarrow as an herb garden, and growing salads in an old straw bale. The children are involved in growing from seed, pricking out and harvesting. Children from the gardening club take home produce and when you have a glut (e.g. pears for crumble) the whole school can be involved in making and eating.

You have a large bug hotel, small bog area and a wildlife pond. The wildflower garden is developing and you plan to improve this in future, which will be exciting. I was very impressed with the planting in the verge adjacent to the road with teasels, curry plants and other low maintenance plants. Posters about wildlife on the fences were informative.

The set up within the garden space works very well for both you and the children and you have no immediate plans to change this. You hope that a new member of staff joining next year may be able to get involved. We talked about making more use of the facility of your outdoor classroom in future.

A perennial problem is maintaining and harvesting a garden and containers over the summer break. Grapes from the vine in the poly-tunnel are given to local elderly residents when harvested over the school holidays. Steph does a sterling job of maintaining the garden. You showed me the new large containers which will be planted up outside the front entrance of the school and because of their size should withstand the summer break!

It was a pleasure to meet you and your enthusiastic team of children and I hope the school enjoys many more years of productive gardening.

Liz Alun-Jones,
East Midlands in Bloom Best School Garden Judge

13th July 2017

St John the Baptist Church of England Primary School

Paul Reid & Katy Llewellyn
 St John the Baptist Church of England Primary School
 Hawthorn Bank
 Spalding
 Lincolnshire
 PE11 1JQ

Dear Paul & Katy

Thank you for accommodating my visit on July 3rd. I enjoyed being shown around by Maisie, Hannah, Rosie, Ben, Luc and Christopher and I was impressed with so much that the whole team had worked on in your beautiful school grounds.

The following shows where I consider you are doing well and where you are looking to achieve more. I hope this is helpful.

SECTION 1 Gardening Activities, Skills and Knowledge	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Involvement of each class in the garden. No. of pupils				*	
Activities that develop skills and knowledge			*		
Year round gardening/growing activities			*		
Gardening club(s) with regular meetings				*	
Raised beds or plots				*	
Principals of rotation/ timing and growing cycles			*		
Range of crops, annuals, perennials			*		
Basic plant recognition			*		

SECTION 2 Garden's Contribution to Education & the Curriculum	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Classes held outdoors		*			
Imaginative use of the garden in teaching	*				
Wide range of curriculum subjects covered	*				
Use of outdoor classroom		*			
Average time students spend in the garden each week		*			

SECTION 3 Value in sustaining the environment and wildlife	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Effective composting and water collection		*			
Planting to encourage wildlife	*				
Examples of features for wildlife	*				
Evidence of wildlife observation	*				
Student knowledge of wildlife		*			

SECTION 4 Growing Fruit and Vegetables & Healthy Living	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Pupil involvement and knowledge of growing food				*	
Range of fruit, vegetables and herbs grown				*	
Quality of food grown				*	
Making use of food produced				*	
Food awareness from plot to plate				*	

EAST MIDLANDS IN BLOOM BEST SCHOOL GARDEN SPECIAL AWARDS 2017

SECTION 5 Design, Management and Maintenance	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Overall impression, maintenance, hard landscape features, plant quality.		*			
Garden layout, displays, accessibility, health & safety			*		
Care and maintenance by pupils			*		
Holiday maintenance				*	
Future plans				*	
Links to sponsorship and advice				*	

MARKS AWARDED

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	SECTION 5	TOTAL MARKS
16	11	10	19	15	71

SCHOOL GARDEN AWARD:

SILVER and WINNER of the BEST FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GARDEN

Judges Comments

What a lovely visit to this welcoming primary school where I was accompanied by their keen and enthusiastic green-fingered young gardeners! I was shown around the extensive grounds by Maisie, Hannah, Rosie, Ben, Luc and Christopher along with their Head teacher Mr Reid. You have grown a huge range of vegetables and herbs in your very well-organised and neatly-presented vegetable plot. The children were all justly proud of their growing achievements and could name the wide variety of vegetables that they had grown. I liked the polytunnel and clearly well-organised Allotment Head Gardeners and rota that had been employed. The rest of your school grounds, including your bush craft/ forest area, are used in a variety of ways across many areas of the curriculum making a developing resource to be used by all children across school. I look forward to seeing your future plans for the development of the quiet area in the playground and your other plans, including the development of flower planting across school to encourage pollinators into the grounds.

Emma Schofield

East Midlands in Bloom Best School Garden Judge

DATE: 7th July 2017

St Peter's C of E (VA) Junior School

St Peter's C of E (VA) Junior School
 Thornhill Road
 Littleover
 Derby
 DE23 6FZ

Dear Katy,

It was good to meet with you and see your garden. Please thank all the children for their welcome and enthusiasm and for the cookery booklet and cakes!

The following marking scheme shows where you have done well and where you are looking to achieve more.

SECTION 1 Gardening Activities, Skills and Knowledge	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Involvement of each class in the garden. No. of pupils				*	
Activities that develop skills and knowledge				*	
Year round gardening/growing activities				*	
Gardening club(s) with regular meetings				*	
Raised beds or plots			*		
Principals of rotation/ timing and growing cycles			*		
Range of crops, annuals, perennials			*		
Basic plant recognition		*			

SECTION 2 Garden's Contribution to Education & the Curriculum	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Classes held outdoors				*	
Imaginative use of the garden in teaching				*	
Wide range of curriculum subjects covered				*	
Use of outdoor classroom				*	
Average time students spend in the garden each week				*	

SECTION 3 Value in sustaining the environment and wildlife	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Effective composting and water collection			*		
Planting to encourage wildlife				*	
Examples of features for wildlife				*	
Evidence of wildlife observation				*	
Student knowledge of wildlife			*		

SECTION 4 Growing Fruit and Vegetables & Healthy Living	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Pupil involvement and knowledge of growing food			*		
Range of fruit, vegetables and herbs grown			*		
Quality of food grown		*			
Making use of food produced				*	
Food awareness from plot to plate				*	

EAST MIDLANDS IN BLOOM BEST SCHOOL GARDEN SPECIAL AWARDS 2017

SECTION 5	Developing	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Doesn't Apply
Design, Management and Maintenance					
Overall impression, maintenance, hard landscape features, plant quality.				*	
Garden layout, displays, accessibility, health & safety				*	
Care and maintenance by pupils				*	
Holiday maintenance				*	
Future plans			*		
Links to sponsorship and advice				*	

MARKS AWARDED

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	SECTION 5	TOTAL MARKS
17	18	18	16	16	85

SCHOOL GARDEN AWARD: GOLD

Judge's Comments

You have been involved with gardening for schools at St Peter's for 5 years and have achieved an impressive series of small gardens, which works well with your facilities.

The original school building is Victorian with numerous more modern extensions and is situated in a built up residential area. This means that although there is a lot of land it is divided into several small pockets which are used for planting. Most are shaded and not ideal, but all have planting to encourage wildlife.

One of the most striking features as a first-time visitor is the welcoming magic garden in front of reception and the display of awards which the school has won. Other gardens include a large herb garden, the bike shed and red house which has been converted into a small poly tunnel and doubles as a work shed. The community garden which is managed by four families who have children in the school and who also help maintain things over the school summer holidays. A wildlife garden with a covered pond and several bird boxes. The peace garden and insect hotel, the buddy beds and tubs and the raised beds and fruit trees.

There is a large wild area designed to allow the children to roam and explore safely. This is used throughout the year for adventure, play and outdoor cooking. I saw examples of produce from the garden being used to make meals such as pumpkin soup, jam and potage. Fruit and vegetables are taken home when possible. Pupils have also produced a booklet of recipes using produce you have grown.

This year the emphasis has been on planting to encourage bees and this has very been successful. You also have reared chickens from eggs and plan to keep some laying hens for eggs.

I saw several examples of using the garden in lessons for science, weather-watching, wildlife observation and surveying, history, art and maths.

The children I spoke to were all very enthusiastic and especially liked the wild garden areas and the wildlife it attracts. The gardening club known as the 'garden guardians' meets twice a week on the days you are in school. This is made up of four children from each class and so covers a range of ages and backgrounds. In addition, you run various classes for all year groups using the garden and outdoor activities to teach topics in the school curriculum. Congratulations on achieving such a vibrant and educational space which is clearly an important part of school life.

Liz Alun-Jones
East Midlands in Bloom Best School Garden Judge

July 21st 2017