



(Grow and Learn Outside/outdoors in Wellies)

### Proposals for the development of outdoor activities and facilities at Bagthorpe Primary School

1. The **general aims** of the project are to
  - create a wide range of environmental, active, inspirational, hands-on, creative, cross-curricular learning activities and facilities in the school grounds, for use by the whole school community
  - to enrich the wonderful environments available to the school, building on what has already been achieved, through developing sustainable activities and habitats
2. The **management** of the project will involve
  - identifying sources of sponsorship and funding
  - motivating and co-ordinating a group of dedicated volunteers with a range of necessary skills and helping train them when necessary
  - organising work days and schedules
  - training teaching staff/volunteers to use the new facilities
  - creating/collating a range of teaching resources, risk assessments and equipment for all activities linked to the curriculum and initiatives such as Growing/Sustainable/Healthy Schools and the Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto
  - developing a strategy for the sustainable future for the project

3. The idea behind **giving the project a name** is to

- help draw together and identify activities both during development and future use by school groups
- give a focus for organising volunteers, funding and publicity
- create positive, fun, enthusiastic responses from all involved
- link with the school's ethos of growing, learning and achieving

4. Ideas for developing the **area around the school buildings**

- tackling the problem created by the public footpath through the grounds (security, dog mess etc)
- placing large planters at the front of the school to provide a welcome to visitors and space for growing a range of plants
- developing the ornamental garden to include some vegetable and companion planting, architectural plants, climbers, 'pergola', benches and composting
- 'Let's Glow!' area for storage of wellies/waterproofs/equipment for activities, with taps, sinks, scrapers etc. Possibility of using temporary classroom to start, eventually creating permanent storage (eg in area between the buildings)
- demolition of outside toilet block to open out views across the grounds and create a large sensory garden accessible by younger children as part of their outdoor space
- outdoor musical instruments around the edge of the 'adventure playground' field
- extending the existing adventure playground into a horseshoe-shaped trail with all weather surface to enable all year round use, maybe incorporating some 'tyre-park' elements
- a human sundial in the centre of the adventure playground field
- an outdoor stage by the conifer hedge in the playground area
- planting weeping willows for shade in a damp corner of the field by the stream

5. Ideas for developing the **lower woodland** area by the school (science investigation to be the main focus of activities in this area)

- tackling issues of security and access to woodland
- checking condition of trees through the NCC Tree Team
- renovating the existing path through the wood to enable access for all
- check for pond life, clear out rubbish and create a pond-dipping platform by the bigger pond
- fence off both ponds for safety, maybe with simple, low willow/hazel fencing
- identify the trees in the wood and label with copper markers, create a 'Tree Route' activity
- develop an outdoor seating area with logs, round the focal point of the large old beech tree, find names for the tree and the woodland
- building a long raised 'table' area for all year round investigation of pond life/minibeasts etc
- planting native woodland flowers such as bluebells, anemones, snowdrops etc
- building habitat stacks for invertebrates and small mammals
- put boot scrapers by entrances to wood

6. Ideas for developing the **upper woodland** at the top of the playing field (outdoor and adventurous activities to be main focus in this area)

- building a large log shelter with seating
- designating an area that can be used for shelter-building
- create a 'Ropewalk' with permanent rope handrail through obstacles such as step-over logs, balance beam, parallel logs, boardwalk, bridge etc
- create a range of sculptures in the woodland
- create a new orienteering course and map
- develop a range of 'Forest School' activities that can be done
- making safe, stepped access to stream

7. Ideas for developing the **playing field area**

- channel the spring down the hill into a pond by the fence

- create a banked amphitheatre near the bottom of the hill with the woodland as a backdrop
- planting an orchard of fruit trees along the lower edge of the field

8. **Timetable** for the developments (dependent on funding, weather, volunteer availability etc)

**Term 1 (Spring 2008)** – Launch of project, consultations with staff, logo, identification of skills available and creation of volunteer base, safety checks on woodlands, tree ID and ‘Tree Route’, investigations into public footpath, creation of the ‘Ropewalk’ and staff training, risk assessments, collating and creation of resources for use in the school grounds, names for all areas (pupil competition), collation of equipment for all activities

**Term 2 and school holidays (Summer 2008)** – planters and gardens, paths, fences round ponds, pond-dipping platform, investigation table and log seating area in lower woodland, amphitheatre, human sundial, orienteering courses and maps, outdoor stage/platform

**Term 3 (Autumn Term)** –adventure playground extension and surfacing, orchard and willow planting, channel spring in field, woodland shelter, woodland wildflower planting, woodland sculptures, habitat stacks, musical instruments