



HEART OF ENGLAND IN BLOOM MARKING SHEET - SCHOOL GROUNDS

School Name: Rushbury CE Primary School

School Category: Primary

Judges names: David and Lesley Pritchard

Date: 14th July 2017

Quality of School Grounds	Criteria	Max Points	Actual Points
A welcoming entrance with the overall appearance of the grounds demonstrating respect by staff, parents and pupils.	Quality of the permanent landscaping with particular attention to the main entrance(s) to the school to include well maintained grassed areas, shrub borders and trees (if present). Presence of shaded areas for pupils in the summer. Sports fields to be maintained to the appropriate standard for their current use.	25	23
	Cleanliness of school grounds including paths, seats, bins etc.	10	9
Flowers/ Vegetables/ Fruit	Criteria	Max Points	Actual Points
The involvement of pupils (with support from teaching staff / parents / volunteers) in the growing of a range of edible and ornamental plants to include propagation, planting, maintenance and harvesting (edibles) will be taken into account as will the number of pupils involved whether in school clubs or class.	The selection and propagation of plants from seed, cuttings, and division, and the understanding of the methods used and/or the growing on of young plants where no, or limited propagation facilities exist	15	15
	Planting out and quality of maintenance of garden area whether in flower beds, vegetable/fruit areas or in combination. The use of raised beds and planters/pots where appropriate.	15	14
	Quality of the flowers/vegetables/herbs/fruit grown.	15	14
	The use of compost and appropriate, preferably organic, methods of improving fertility and controlling pests.	15	14
	The harvesting and subsequent use of edible crops and/or the collection of seed.	15	15

Sustainability	Criteria	Max Points	Actual Points
Where there is little or no scope for the provision of natural areas in the school grounds then involvement of pupils in an off site local habitat resource will gain marks	<p>Natural areas Presence of well managed and understood natural habitat(s) created to encourage native plants and wildlife, and habitat(s) in the early stages of creation.</p> <p>Involvement of pupils in practical work within these natural habitats and in the monitoring of species present.</p>	20	20
Innovative ideas having impact on pupils understanding of environmental issues in the school grounds will gain marks	<p>Protecting the environment Water conservation (<i>a proportionate amount of water saving facilities/methods both within the school building and in the grounds</i>)</p> <p>Composting and peat (<i>the use of well managed compost bins and/or wormeries for recycling organic matter; minimal peat use</i>)</p> <p>Recycling (<i>For example: use of recycled materials in the grounds and suitable storage facilities for recyclables.</i>)</p>	10	9
		10	10
		10	8
Use of Grounds for School Curriculum	Criteria	Max Points	Actual Points
Examples of pupil's work clearly showing the educational uses of the grounds will be sought.	<p>The Outdoor Classroom</p> <p>Demonstrable use of school grounds as an outdoor classroom for fulfilling areas of the core curriculum e.g. in science, art, maths, English and the environment.</p>	30	29
	Maximum Points Available	200	190
	Award		GOLD

Judges Overall Comments:

Rushbury is a small rural primary school in Shropshire. It was recently judged to be 'outstanding' by Ofsted which comes as no surprise given the evidence we noted in relation to the quality of the school grounds. Our year five pupil guides were excellent but the most significant feature is the involvement of the entire school with the 'In Bloom' agenda. This is reflected not only in the grounds but also inside the school buildings where displays, noticeboards and curriculum activities all contribute to a well-deserved Gold award.

Quality of school grounds:

- The school grounds are clean and tidy despite their intensive use.
- The sports field is well maintained and well used. The award-winning wild meadow continues to impress
- Portable raised beds provide a good facility for budding gardeners.

Flowers/ vegetables/ fruit:

- Organic gardening producing high yields and high quality of fruit and vegetables.
- Evidence of companion planting to support healthy growth and to make the area look attractive.
- Herb planting used to flavour food made in the classroom and on-site kitchen.
- Plants raised from seed and carefully nurtured resulting in successful growth.

Sustainability:

- File examined containing detailed evidence of eco-gardening over the year.
- Composting very well established using the facilities available.
- Recycling wherever possible e.g. pots cleaned and reused.
- Ample bird boxes and bug hotels around the site particularly in the forest school area.
- More water butts added to save on main water supply usage.

Curriculum:

- Mint and raspberries from the grounds used to flavour ice cream made by pupils. Tried and tested. Excellent!
- Natural science taught using school grounds especially in the forest school area.
- Evidence of music, artwork, design technology and other curriculum activities reflected inside the school and in the school grounds.
- Every pupil spoken to was confident and articulate with regard to their experiences of outdoor learning.

Areas for development:

The area on either side of the main entrance continues to be an area requiring improvement. Ground elder and rampant mint threaten to take over. This area would benefit from more colourful impact.

An area of slabs in front of the brick wall provide an ideal seated waiting area parents but could this be brightened up with containers and plants that would cover up the rather bare brick wall?

Explore ways in which the school's Church of England designation could be somehow reflected in the school grounds.