

CASE STUDY

THE GROWING SCHOOLS GARDEN

LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Meadow

Crispin School
Street, Somerset

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Why we got involved

We have an active Green Committee that is made up of numerous small groups who take responsibility for a wide range of ESD work. This includes garden design, gardening, paper re-cycling, Fair Trade, environmental art-work, Youth Watch (community work), and our Kenya link. Our school grounds are a testament to all of this enthusiasm over many years. Learning through Landscapes, and our experiences, fit in closely with the Hampton Court Garden design.

What we made for the Meadow

We have designed a labyrinth to be cut out of grass in the meadow area. Pupils will demonstrate how to make and use labyrinths during the show. (For more information see the Film in the Meadow garden zone and the Make It in the Places of Worship sector of the Learning Outside the Classroom Resource Area.)

For other areas of the garden pupils have made four stained-glass-like insect panels. These will be placed along a boundary and act as a colourful 'running fence'.

Pupils have made decorative rings containing found objects. They represent a visual map of our local place, and will be hung to decorate trees.

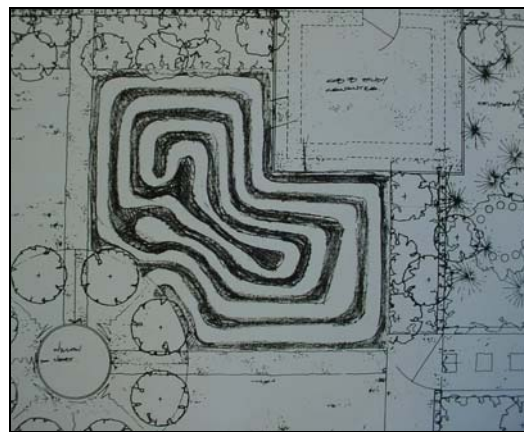
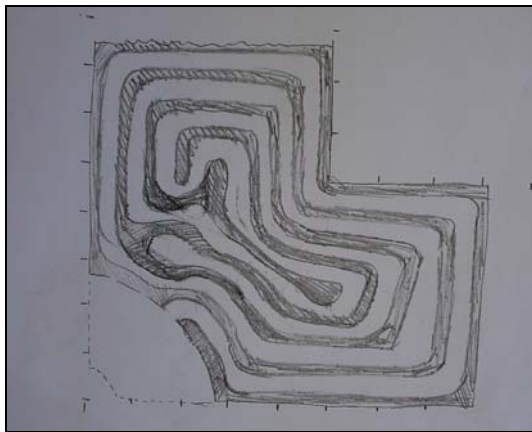
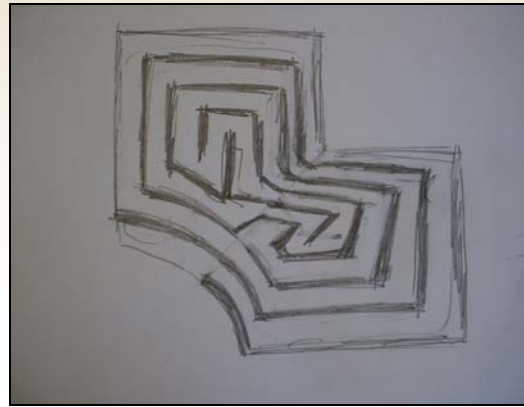
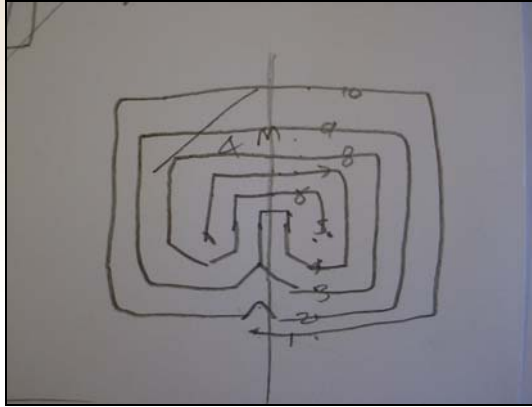
To fill a wire gabion to act as a seat, pupils have made withy mats, and filled bottles with peat, to be placed in decorative layers.

What we learned

Learning in the environment is a powerful way to value and look after it. We are not a Faith School, however our environmental policy encompasses our faith about the importance of our environment. Direct, hands-on, designing and transforming spaces is an effective and fun strategy to get pupils involved in their own environment. They have a say and it becomes theirs and not some one else's. The project has encouraged the pupils to share their experiences of work at school with a different environment and group of people.

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Photo gallery



Quotes

'It has been an amazing experience. We've had the opportunity to try lots of new skills and work on a special project. I have used green withies whilst my friends used old shoelaces to knot around a withy ring. Some of the ideas are new and creative. It's given me lots to think about, especially when it is for a major and important flower show. We can use some of these now in school.'

Becky, Year 8

Other information

We have invested a lot of time, both curricula and extra curricula, in developing our school grounds. We try to get as many pupils as possible involved so that they feel a real ownership of their grounds. Each year we make new things to add to what is decaying or needs replacing, or just extending. Annually we have two ESD days for the whole of Year 10, where they visit several sites (landfill, Eco-friendly low- and high-tech houses, an

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organic farm) and plan design ideas for the school grounds that the green committee vote on and put into practice during the following year.

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