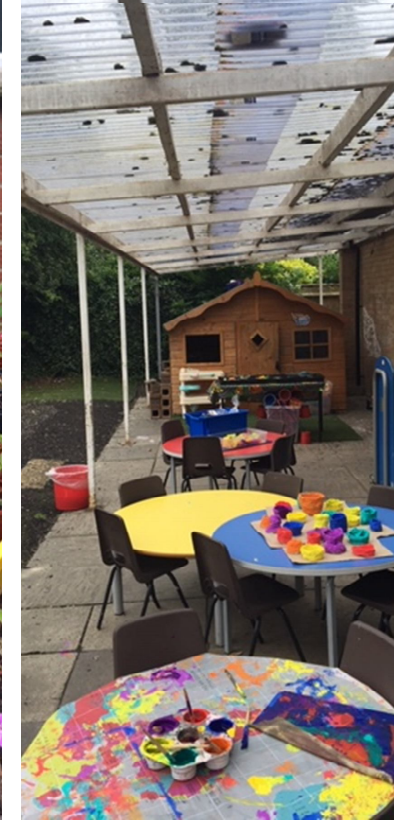




# Launton Primary School, Bicester

Looking at our School Grounds NOW & for the FUTURE

Report from the Landscape Strategy Workshops - September and October 2019



Completed in December 2019

## Introduction

The workshops at Launton Primary School were planned to support development of the school grounds and to guide how they planned, used, designed and managed for the future.

This report summarises the main findings from the workshops to help the school review the outside learning environment, and make positive change for pupils of all ages at the school

38 people attended the first workshop on 19th September 2019, including Mrs Paterson, Headteacher of Launton Primary, teaching and support staff, governors, parents and pupils from the school. A similar number were there for the second workshop which took place on 3rd October 2019. Facilitation of the events was provided by Catherine Eldred, Landscape Architect from Enrich Landscape Strategy.



## Contents

This report summarises the main findings from the workshops to help the school review the school environment.

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# Where are we NOW ?

**Rate the Space** — Participants worked in groups to record their thoughts on a series of 12 cards, as illustrated below.

Feedback was given and the following pages show the record created from all cards collected in , and which will be referred to as part of Workshop 2.



Location 1

Location 1 is 'The Front Garden' and it's where gardening takes place and stories are read. It's also used as a main access route. Although 'calming' it's also said to be 'unloved' which could be down to the fact that it was mentioned there are dead plants which need attention.

It scored 6/ 10 for both its quality and usage. It's 'difficult to maintain' but 'has potential'.



Location 2

Location 2 is 'The Garden' where plants are grown and the Christmas tree is positioned. It feels very 'welcoming and peaceful'. It scored 7/ 10 for its quality but this would be improved by giving the plants more attention. Its only use is for gardening, so it scored 6/ 10 for that.



Location 3

Location 3 is 'The Original Front Door'. It doesn't serve much purpose now except for storing bikes. The 'quaint, attractive and rustic' look helped it to score 6/ 10 for quality. However, it's very limited use was evident as it scored 2/ 10 for how much it's used.



Location 5 is named 'Rowan Class Outdoor Area' and is a place for outdoor learning thanks to it being 'well sheltered'. It's 'shady and dark' and some suggest it requires more light. It scored 4/ 10 for the quality and 6/ 10 for how often it gets used.



Location 4

Location 4 is described as 'The Outside Area by The Ramp'. Its sole use is for access. It's 'drab, gloomy and depressing' location but it's felt it could be 'brightened up'. The score for quality was 4/ 10 and the score for use was 7/ 10 as it's an important walkway.



Location 5

Location 6 is 'The Secret Garden'. It's used for storing plants and growing seeds but it's become 'overgrown and weedy'. It feels like it's 'all a bit of a mess' which in conjunction with old furniture led to it receiving a low score of 4/ 10 for its quality. It's difficult to access, therefore it's 'rarely used'. It was graded as being just 1/ 10 for how well it's used.



Location 6

# Where are we NOW ?...Cont'd

Location 7 is 'The Courtyard' and it's used as a major pathway through the school. The area didn't create many strong feelings from those at the workshop except descriptions of the area being considered '*crowded*'. For quality, it scored 9/10 due to being partly '*sheltered*'. It received the same score for its usage.



Location 10 is 'The Field' and it's used for playing sports, P.E. lessons and the unique 'Launton Laps'. It's a '*spacious*' and fun area that scored a full 10/10 for both its quality and how much it gets used. The 'Trim Trail' appears to be a very popular part of this location as it's used daily.



Location 7

Location 10



Location 11

Location 11 is 'The Ash Garden' and it's used by Reception and Year 1 as a play area and a spot for reading. It's a '*warm, happy and secure*' environment. For its quality, it was rated as being 7/10 as it's a '*lovely space*' but '*needs to be kept fresh*'. It was given a 10/10 score for how well it's used.



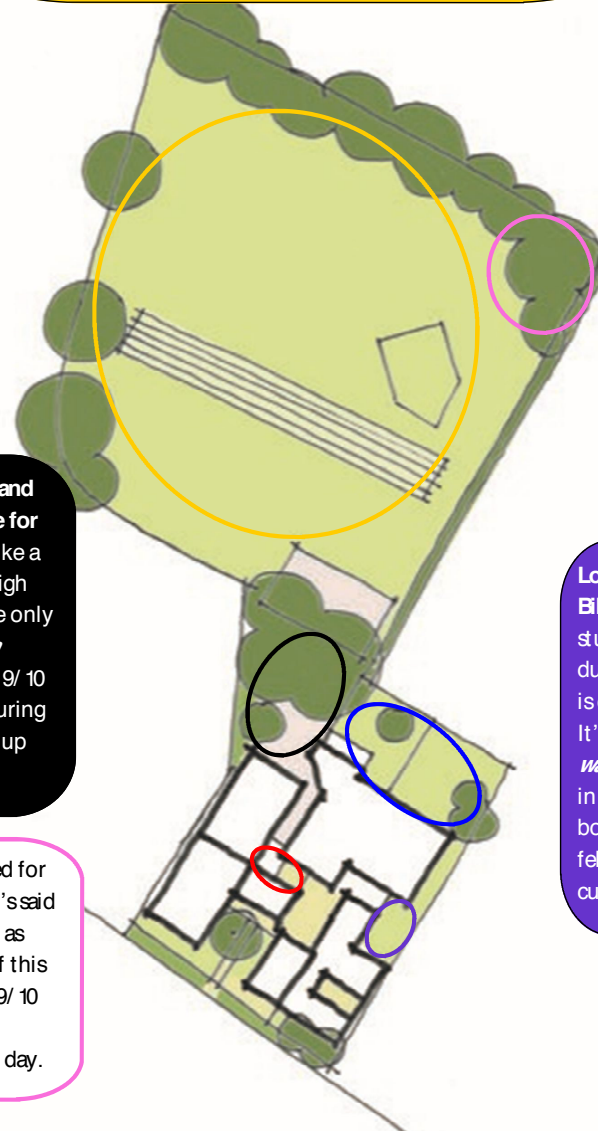
Location 8 is 'The Playground' and it's used at break and lunchtime for playing various games. It feels like a '*fun*' place to be. It received a high score of 9/10 for its quality; the only hold-up being that '*it floods in winter*'. Its usage score was also 9/10 as it's a very popular location during playtime and it's used as a pick-up point.

Location 8



Location 9 is 'The Forest'. It's used for '*playing, hiding and exploring*'. It's said to feel '*scary in a fun way*' as well as being '*mysterious*'. The quality of this site was rated 8/10 and it scored 9/10 for how well it gets used because pupils, of all ages, play here every day.

Location 9



Location 12 is 'The Shed & Bike Park Area' where students store their bikes during the day and rubbish is collated and disposed of. It's said to be a '*messy and wasted space*'. This resulted in low scores of 4/10 for both quality and usage. It's felt that this space isn't currently being optimised.



Location 12



# Where are we NOW ?

**Key points** Participants worked together in groups to discuss how the grounds are currently used. Key points from the topics discussed are shown below.....

## Outdoor Learning and Early Years

- It was discussed that although many areas of the grounds are used to support outdoor learning, however it doesn't happen as often as people would like it to.
- PE lessons and sport take place across the field area throughout the year. This includes football, hockey, and orienteering. The court area is also well used throughout the year.
- Science lessons often use the field area to explore habitats, and the playground for balloon rocket work. English lessons sometimes take place outside when teaching phonics and Active English.

## Play, Breaktimes and Socialising

- There is currently a wide variety of play available to the children at break and lunchtimes, but it does vary seasonally due to access onto the field and in the Forest in the colder months.
- The Forest is the favourite place of most of the children and it was said that if it could be twice the size it could be used by more children.
- The most popular area is the field as when there is free access to it everyone agreed that break and lunchtimes feel at their best due to *"more room, less crowding and more variety of play"*.

## Health and Well Being

**"How do our school grounds support both the physical and emotional Health and Well Being of all who are here at the school?"**

- It was felt that there are a number of ways in which the grounds currently support Health and Well-Being of many at the school.
- The Launton Lapse every morning help physical health and the large grounds and new pathway enable access to a wider part of the field throughout the year for play and exercise. Sport also encourages physical health, and this happens throughout the year both in curriculum and free time.
- It was felt that the field area also encourages emotional health as many pupils like the area as a place where they can talk with their friends.

# Where do we want to be?...

***“Our Vision”***- Participants worked individually to complete the sentence.....

***“We would like our school grounds to be a place where..... “***



We can be surrounded by nature  
Children are inspired to learn  
We could do Forest School  
We can work hard and play harder  
Spaces which inspire people to learn  
Where you can do good work and have fun  
A place children are proud of and want to help look after  
Where children are safe whilst having fun!  
We can explore and we can learn  
Where children can learn inside and outside  
It is a beautiful space and we have more things to do  
Where everyone can appreciate and learn about the great outdoors  
Where young people can be themselves  
Where we learn in a happy place  
Where all the rubbish gets picked up  
Where children can be active and learn good skills  
Children can be creative  
Where we have a sanctuary for wildlife  
A place that helps us stay fit and healthy  
Where pupils can play, have fun and make some of the best memories  
Where children can relax in green surroundings



# Where do we want to be?...

**Future spaces** - Participants selected images to describe the kind of spaces they would like to see in the future school grounds. They discussed these in groups and then presented their thoughts on positive and negative aspects of the selected images. The choice of images and discussion is summarised here.



**Eating Outdoors** – spaces for social interaction, communication, and enjoying being with friends.



*Can we make our forest area bigger please?*



We need to have a variety of play that is age appropriate for either Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2.



Seating needs to be in the right place, in the right direction and there for the right reasons

“And what do we **NOT** like?....”



*We don't want to do anything that would make us worry about everyone's safety and security here at school.*



Areas with shade and shelter to help in the summer months  
Flexible spaces that encourage a wide variety of uses

“What do we like, and would like to see in our grounds?....”

Spaces for everyone to go to that are calm and peaceful.



*We don't want to encourage climbing of the trees in our grounds*



Areas to learn life skills in.

Growing in a dedicated space with storage and resources  
Colourful spaces



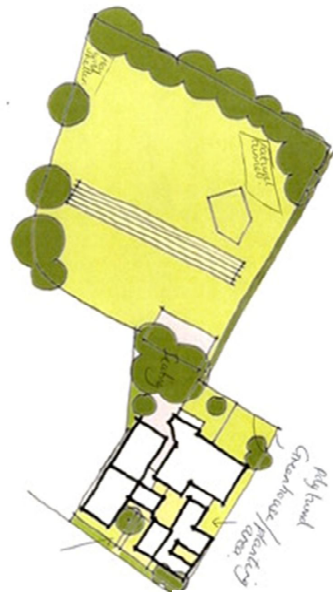
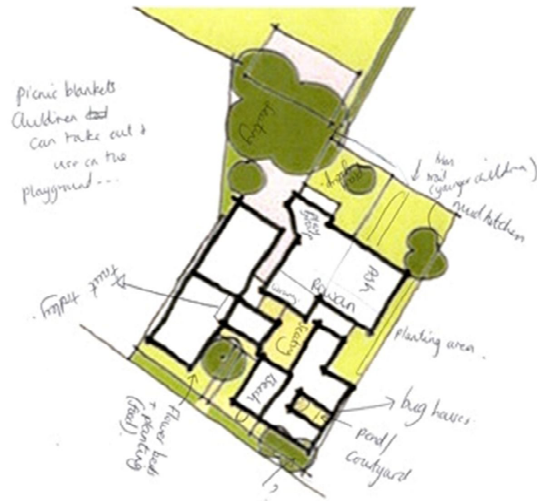
**Shade and shelter** – Spaces that are able to be used throughout the year and in all weathers



# Zoning Plans from Workshop 2 (1 of 2)

Participants worked in groups, using maps to 'Zone' the school grounds and further refine the ambition for the future. Each presented how they would like to see the grounds develop over time. Copies of each groups work is included here and has been used to draft the **Emerging Key Principles** and the **Emerging Strategy Plan**.

Launton Primary School  
Zoning Plan

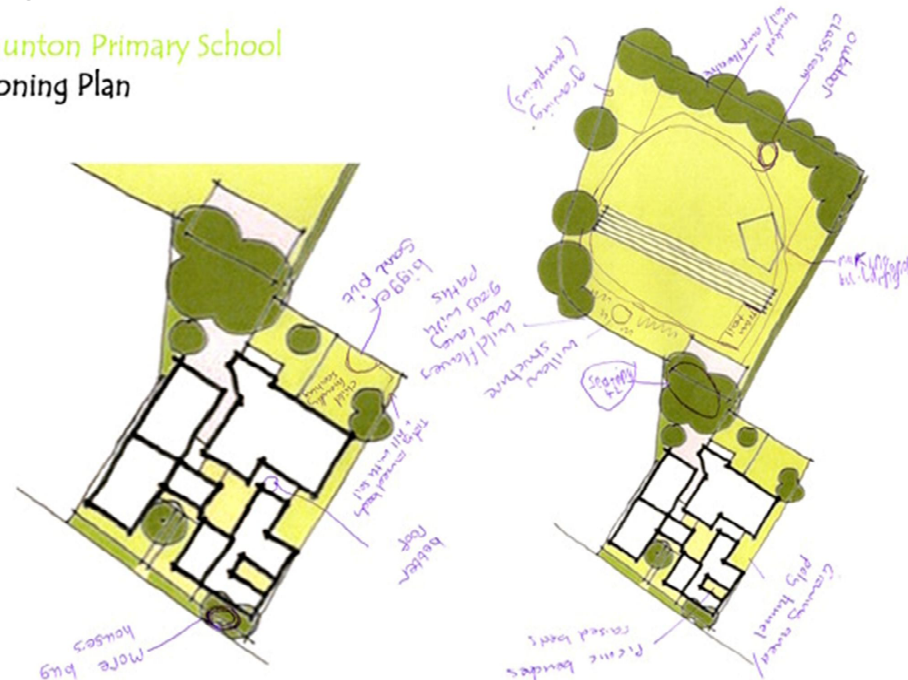


Zoning Plan 1

- Spaces we would like to have in our grounds for the future...**
- Natural aspects of Play eg – tunnels, climbing on, through, over and under
  - Spaces that are beautiful and enhancing
  - Spaces that are easy to maintain
  - Huts for learning
  - Gathering Spaces to sit and learn
  - Outdoor cookery
  - Lighting
  - Bike and scooter shelter
  - Outdoor eating spaces
  - Shade and shelter
  - Growing and planting areas eg – area for a Farmers Market?
  - Spaces to support the curriculum and outside learning
  - Shade and Shelter
  - Performance space
  - Friendship spaces

Zoning Plan 2

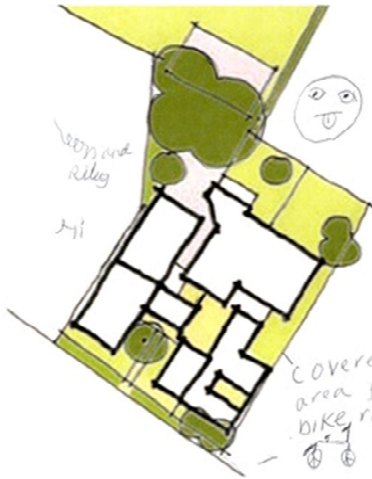
Launton Primary School  
Zoning Plan





# Zoning Plans from Workshop 2 (2 of 2)

Launton Primary School  
Zoning Plan

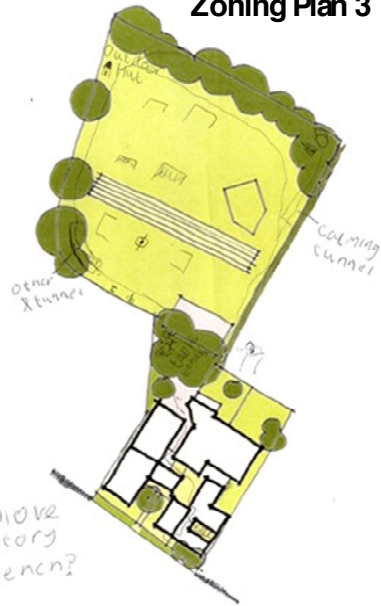


Zoning Plan 5

Launton Primary School  
Zoning Plan

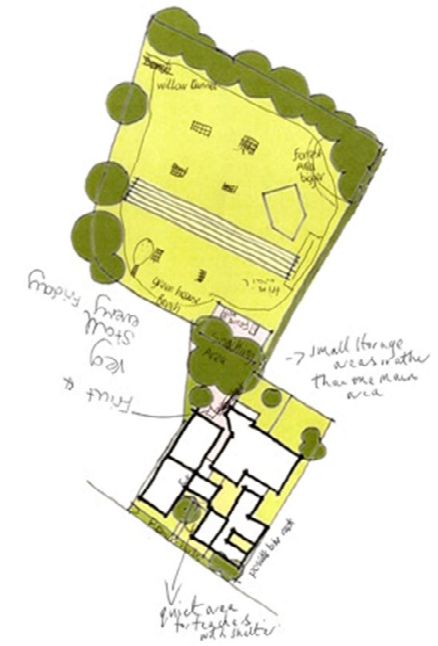
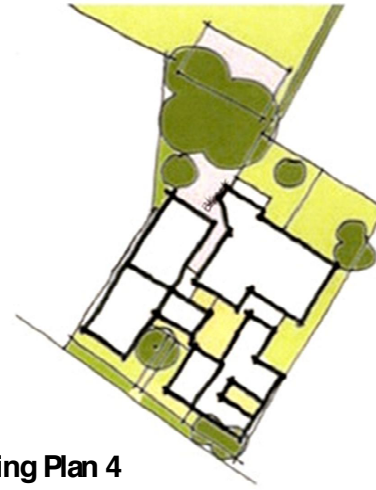


Zoning Plan 3



Zoning Plan 4

Launton Primary School  
Zoning Plan



## Areas 1: Multi Functional Social Spaces

**Ambition:** To create a multi-functional space for both play and learning throughout the year.

### Ideas and Requirements

- Redesign of the area to further develop clear zones for a better variety of play and lunchtime activities throughout the year.
- Explore the inclusion of appropriate seating within the space to encourage communication skills between the pupils, and lighting to make the area useable at the darker times of the year, and safer for those leaving later in the day or evenings.
- Provision of a shade or shelter during the year when needed for a clearly defined gathering space to enable a whole class to sit to support the wider area being used as a learning resource.
- Area to also be able to be used for events and celebrations eg – Sports Day, for the catering by the PTA, with space for additional tables alongside that can also be used for learning.

## Area 2: – Digging Area and Loose Material Play

**Ambition:** Area to provide a space to encourage pupils in creative and independent play.

### Ideas and Requirements

- Area to include a natural space for pupils to enjoy digging with tools provided in appropriate storage and on shadow boards.
- Additional storage provided for loose materials for additional play resources. Discuss ideas of loose material play further in

## Area 3: Growing Area

**Ambition:** Space to enable pupils of all ages at the school to get involved in planting and growing throughout the year.

### Ideas and Requirements

- Discuss further with all teaching staff the inclusion of a polytunnel in the space to enable planting and growing activities to happen all year round.
- Arrange for area to be cleared of all existing sheds and other ancillary resources for the area to be dedicated to growing and planting with the children.

## ★ Areas 8 – Bike and Scooter storage

**Ambition:** to provide a safe and secure area for all bikes and scooters of pupils and staff to be kept safe throughout the day.

### Ideas and Requirements

Explore the options available for storage of bikes and scooters and appropriate surface treatment also needed for the area

## Areas 9 – New Shelter

**Ambition:** To provide an area of shade and shelter which combines with seating to enable children to sit and talk, and PTA events to have a location.

## ★ Area 4: – Outdoor Learning Space

**Ambition:** To provide a space immediately adjacent to the classrooms for continuous provision of learning of all ages throughout the year. Outdoor space to support the learning in the classroom space and provide an area for the pupils to use to further support their understanding.

### Ideas and Requirements

- Existing canopy to be assessed and improved or replaced to enable year round use of the area.
- Discuss use of the area further with all teaching staff to encourage this area to provide the resource for improved outdoor learning to take place. Area to be seen as an extension to the classroom and used as much as possible.
- Additional storage to be included to enable resources to be accessed independently by the pupils.

Describing our ambition for the grounds

### Key Principles for the future

- Opportunity to explore in green spaces
- To create areas with different personalities
- To continue to support and encourage planting and growing, across the grounds
- Where pupils can learn the life skills needed for later life to help themselves and others

## Area 5 – Forest, and newly developed areas alongside the pathway to include cherry tree glade planting.

**Ambition:** To provide additional natural forest space for the pupils to enjoy in years to come, and to provide additional resources for the area to also be used at the moment alongside the current forest area.

### Ideas and Requirements

- Discuss area further with all teaching staff, lunchtime supervisory staff, and grounds maintenance to develop a good understanding on how the area to be developed for the future, and how it is to be used and managed for the future. Potential involvement of local wildlife groups to aid planting and management advice.
- Area to include additional native tree planting, additional cherry tree planting, and to increase the size of the forest area for the longer term.
- Designated pathways through the area to also provide linkages areas of natural resources including willow and tee-pees.

## Area 6 – “The Secret Garden”

**Ambition:** Area to be used by everyone within school to enjoy planting and growing in combination with Area 3 and the polytunnel.

### Ideas and Requirements

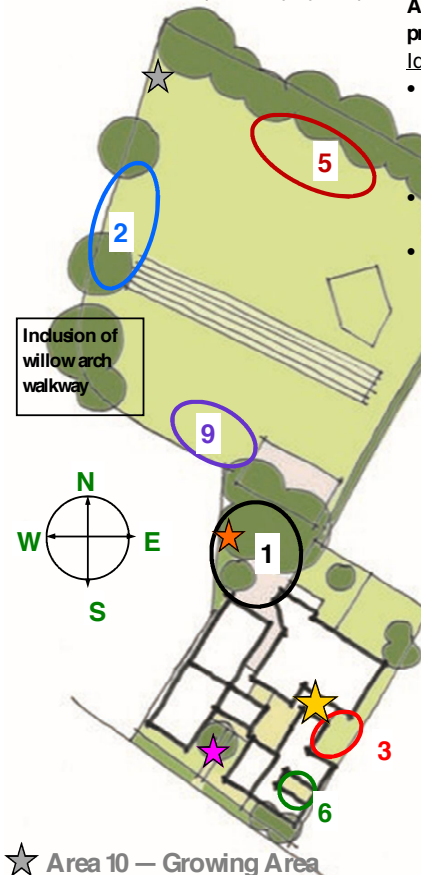
- Area to be cleared, pond to be removed, and a management plan put together to support the use and enjoyment of the area including the provision of new raised planting beds.
- Area to also be developed and used as an additional breakout space from the adjacent classroom. Inclusion of picnic benches to enable this to happen more.

## ★ Area 7 – Frontage of the school

**Ambition:** To improve and celebrate the frontage of the school, and to encourage this area to be used as part of the school grounds as much as all of the other areas to support play and learning for all.

### Ideas and Requirements

- Discuss the safety and security of the existing gates to enable the frontage space to be used as much as possible by pupils and teaching staff throughout the day. Improvements to be made to restrict access by visitors and deliveries with a clearer entrance system. Further need to discuss general arrival and waiting areas for the school.
- Discuss use of the area further with all teaching staff to enable the space and resources available to support play and learning.
- Area to be cleared of all existing wooden seating, planters and sculpture to encourage the area to create a good first impression to all those arriving at the school and to reduce the ongoing need for management of areas currently underused.



## ★ Area 10 – Growing Area

**Ambition:** Area with raised beds to encourage planting, growing and nurture.