



London Bridge Best Practice



Case Study Title: Snowsfields Gardening & Bug Hotel
Month/Year: May 2017

Key Benefits

- ✓ Helping the local community
- ✓ Teaching students about biodiversity

Objectives and Targets

- ✓ National Skills Academy Target
- ✓ SDS Report 7f – Hold a community project in partnership with the local community

Overview

Located in a heavy urbanised area of London with minimal biodiversity, Snowsfield’s garden was in desperate need of an upgrade to create a wildlife friendly area. With large areas of concrete and weeds taking the garden under their control, there was a lot of room for improvement!

Due to the location of the school many of the students don’t have gardens at home, so we aimed to create an area for them to get outdoors and appreciate nature. The garden was created first by removing weeds and overgrown plants from the area and flattening the ground to provide a stable surface for the bug hotel. Planters donated from a local charity were then brought in and filled with soil. Later in the day, the children came out to plant sage, mint, mallow, broad beans and other plants, giving them an opportunity they may not otherwise have to get stuck in with some gardening.

The bug hotel was created using stacked recycled pallets. These were filled with bamboo, rocks, bricks, pine cones, twigs, dried leaves, polystyrene and other items donated from the gardens of the staff at LBSR. The children helped complete the hotel and discussed what wildlife the different materials would attract.

The long-term management of the garden is to be undertaken by the school’s gardening club, therefore making the garden not only a beautiful place to visit, but a sustainable educational tool! Their team of four Science Leaders are keen to be at the forefront of looking after the garden and are to present an assembly in front of their peers to tell them of the importance of looking after the garden and to raise awareness about urban green spaces.

Upon revisiting the site a couple of weeks later, spiders, snails, bees and birds were using the hotel. As the students have been taught how to look after the garden themselves, the garden will continue to have a positive impact long into the future!

