



## Knox Academy Learning Garden

The attached plan shows a potential layout for the Learning Garden

All of the suggestions gathered by Knox Academy have been considered.

Potting shed 2mx2m

Tool shed 900mmx900mm and x2 sets of gardening tools

Solar lights for the exterior of the sheds

Rain water gathering system

New outdoor tap

Four mixed dwarf fruit trees in four large planter pots, one of each in granite, sandstone, clay and slate. To be placed on the slabbed area for full sunlight. A three metre tall carved wooden story (totem) pole. Design to be decided, suggestions of school story, native north American imagery or Celtic knots and symbols? Suggested location centre of the slabbed area. Possibly painted by students?

Composting tumbler (sealed unit as brief)

Small shallow pond with medium sized sandstone boulders for solar powered water feature (cascade over boulders)

Local larch timber planters located around the learning garden walls on the gravel edges. These planted with native flowers for year round colour where possible.

Large Mushroom seats x8

Log bench seating

Wind chimes x3 located close to seating areas

A wormery (sealed unit as brief)

Chalk board 2440mm x 1220mm on stand.

Wood carved native creatures circa 300mm tall x4, owl, mouse, squirrel, bat?

Metal 3d life size sculptures of African birds Crane and Guinee fowl circa 4-5.

Standing sundial.

Large compass painted onto the slabs (if allowed).

Vertical Bug hotels, located south facing for the sun.

Low level vegetable garden

Raised bed of dual height (standing) accessible from both sides with a wheelchair accessible level, suggested sensory garden, with interactive water channel.

The learning garden will be a beautiful practical space for pupils and staff to immerse themselves. It will offer learning opportunities for students to study sciences, art, geography, horticulture and be surrounded by interesting small spaces each offering multiple learning opportunities.

These interconnected spaces will contain, Metal sculpture, Wood sculpture  
Large pots made from different stone for a variety of fruit trees, placed so they can maximise their capture of sunlight and use of space.

Maintaining both grass areas and by allowing a section of grass to grow will offer increased biodiversity in the form of wildflowers and grasses encouraging beneficial insects to the learning garden. This in turn providing livestock for the bug hotels and vice versa. By interweaving growing space and social/learning seating setups will help with the students ability to focus.

A small pond with stone water feature will also increase biodiversity, with seating close by and surrounded by long grasses and flowers this will also provide a relaxing learning spot.

Creating a wildflower garden by clearing rich soil and introducing a poorer nutritional soil, then planting with native wildflower seeds will bring a whole new dimension to the garden in summer and with it the insects and birds associated with them.

Throughout there will be an abundance of opportunities for the study of art. The wood and metal sculptures found within the spaces created will offer the student and teacher many areas for focus and discussion.

Geography will find the stones geology of interest as well as the sundial, story pole, compass and plant and seed combinations as well as the biodiversity achieved.

Practical physical work applications will arise through the preparation of pots, and beds and planting. Including the use of tools and maintenance which will be housed in the tool store and potting shed. Water gathering from the roofs of the sheds provides for the plants without the chemicals present in our tap water.

The opportunities for learning in a garden such as this are extensive.

Should Tree-ditions be successful in this tender then we would be delighted to involve students in some of the elements in the creation of the learning garden. For example the design and painting of the story pole, the construction of the pond, raised beds, low level veg garden and such like. It is our ethos to offer the opportunity to include the customer and participate in the aspects of creation where they can, thus instilling ownership and an understanding of the efforts required to achieve beautiful things.

This is a proposal and all elements are up for discussion to accommodate your desired outcome.