

### School grounds focus:

- Where are we now?
- Where do we want to be?
- How can we get there?
- Making the changes
- Using your grounds

### Curriculum focus:

- PSHE
- English language and literacy
- ICT

### Purpose of this activity:

- To work as a group to plan a whole-school event.
- To get the whole school involved in your school grounds project.

### Equipment and materials:

- Digital camcorder (or similar) – preferably in a booth or quiet area.
- Board on which to mount a display of photos of the school grounds and/or potential equipment.
- Graffiti wall space for large sheets of paper.
- Supply of sticky dots, pens, sticky notes.

### Preparation:

- This activity is designed for the very beginning of a school grounds development project. It's important to get as many people as possible involved in your school grounds project to make sure the changes you finally make will be the right ones, and that everyone will respect them. You will need to keep them involved throughout the project but, first of all, you need to get them interested. One way to do this is with a launch event. To organise this all you need to have done previously is identify the pupils who will be involved in launching the project. This could be the school council, a curriculum class, a tutor group or a group of volunteers.

### What to do:

Talk pupils through the decision making process of where, when and how to hold the launch event. Points to consider include:

- when would be the best time – lunch time? Other schools have found that a launch event at lunchtime, perhaps in or near the dining hall, is a good way of getting people involved at the start of a project.
- where would be the best place – where most people will be or where you have the most room?
- who will do what? Divide the planning and preparation between you.
- how can you make sure everybody knows it's happening? Put up posters all around the place, make announcements in assemblies or at registration.
- what sort of information do you need to collect and how/who is going to process the results? Use the suggestions over page.
- designing the launch publicity and its distribution.

### Extension:

- The results from the launch event will provide valuable ways of communicating with any professional designer you might use to help with your project. Look at different ways of collating the information gathered – such as graphs, pie charts, bar charts, spreadsheets etc.

# On the day – gathering opinions

At your launch event it is a good idea to have a variety of activities that pupils can join in with. This also gives you an opportunity to collect important information – such as what people think about the grounds as they are now, or how they would like the grounds to change. Think about how to collect this information – and what you will do with the information you collect. Will you need to analyse and present your findings?

Activities other schools have tried include:

- setting up a video-diary booth where pupils can be filmed talking about their opinions of the grounds.
- using sticky dot voting – putting up pictures of different parts of the grounds, and giving pupils sticky dots for them to use to vote for their favourite (or least favourite) places. You could also put up pictures of the different features you could have in the grounds for them to vote on.
- creating a graffiti wall – putting large sheets of paper up on a display board and letting people write their opinions as large as they like! Or you could give people sticky notes for them to write their opinions on and then stick them to the wall.

