



To start with there will be a brand-new residential block which will transform the residential provision, this will hold 40 beds. The new facilities will enable us to help to develop the pupils independent living skills. As part of the build project we will be losing the heritage building. Although this is staying as part of the Trust, the academy will not be able to use it therefore any rooms and spaces that are used by the education part of the academy will be re-provided in the new educational buildings, linked to the current education block.

In the new educational building we will be creating:

- 7 new classrooms
- 7 new withdrawal rooms
- 1 new learning resource centre
- 1 new main assembly hall
- 1 new dining hall
- 1 new conference room
- 4 new SEN therapy rooms

### **Therapeutic garden space:**

#### **What is a sensory garden?**

The idea of a sensory garden is that plants, hard landscaping and other garden materials and features are selected for their appeal to all five senses with the aim of offering a richer and perhaps more therapeutic experience to a range of people with different needs.

Some of the aims of a sensory garden include: Encouraging the development of sensory abilities such as smell or touch, creating an interesting place for people with disabilities who may enjoy working and socialising outside of the classroom and a place to relax, be comfortable and feel safe.

#### **What differs a sensory garden from a traditional garden?**

All gardens are places where our senses are stimulated but the considered inclusion of features with particular sensory qualities with the particular intention of creating a beneficial environment for disabled people is what makes a sensory garden.

#### **Ideas for the sensory garden:**

##### **SIGHT:**

- Plant flowers of varying colours. Take the time of day and the seasons into account
- Include plant varieties with red, soft grey and mixed colour foliage
- Make use of contrast
- Clip or prune plants such as conifers (cypresses and pines) into interesting shapes

- Consider planting long grasses, strap-leaved plants and ‘weeping’ tree varieties – it’s restful to watch and listen to plants moving in the breeze
- Install a water feature. Include bright varieties of fish and water plants in ponds, with a bench nearby. If a sunken pond is not possible, a raised birdbath or other water feature works well.
- Include plants that appeal to birds and butterflies, such as bottle brush, lavender and herb varieties
- Use trees and plants to hide visually unappealing areas.
- Choose trees that attract bird life

#### **HEARING:**

- Include nectar-producing plants that lure birds into your garden
- Encourage birds into your garden with a birdbath
- Hang wind chimes in breezy areas
- Install a water feature
- Choose textured paths that make sounds as you walk on them, such as crushed gravel

#### **TOUCH:**

- Incorporate plants with different textures
- Vary the textures in your garden
- Choose hardy varieties of plants that can cope with handling
- Include different types of surfaces along your walkways
- Place plants and trees close to paths so that anyone walking along them is brushed by foliage
- Provide sunny and shady areas to offer temperature contrast

#### **SMELL:**

- Plant flowers with subtle smells such as violets
- Plant aromatic, non-slip creepers or herbs such as mint, thyme or rosemary, near path edges or seats, so that when you walk on them they release a beautiful aroma
- Space scented flowers at intervals around your garden so that the different scents will not be confusing or overwhelming

#### **TASTE:**

- Grow your own herbs and use them in your cooking
- Plant a vegetable garden
- Plant fruit trees in your garden
- Plant species with edible flowers

Image ideas:

