

The Peace Garden

The Peace Garden is a powerful reflection of our commitment to nurturing both the environment and the emotional wellbeing of our pupils

At Aston Rowant School, our Peace Garden is a special example of how Eco Enrichment, pupil voice and wellbeing come together to create something meaningful and lasting.

Designed and developed by the children themselves, the Peace Garden is a quiet, reflective space within our school grounds. It provides an area where pupils can pause, think, and feel calm, while also serving as a supportive place for those children who may be experiencing sadness or loss.

Pupil-Led Design and Ownership

From the very beginning, pupils played a central role in shaping the Peace Garden. They were involved in:

- Designing the layout and purpose of the garden
- Choosing plants to reflect calm, care and biodiversity
- Considering how the space could be welcoming and respectful for all

This process gave pupils a sense of ownership and responsibility, ensuring the garden truly reflects their ideas, values and needs.

Learning Through Action

The children took on the practical work of creating the Peace Garden, including:

- Preparing the ground and planting
- Creating pathways and quiet seating areas
- Establishing planting that supports wildlife and sustainability
- Ongoing care and maintenance of the space

Through this hands-on approach, pupils developed teamwork, perseverance and pride in their work, while understanding the importance of caring for both the environment and each other.

A Space for Reflection and Support

The Peace Garden is a calm and purposeful space:

- A place for quiet reflection and mindfulness
- A supportive area for children who have experienced bereavement or difficult emotions
- An environment that promotes emotional wellbeing and self-regulation

Having a dedicated space of this nature supports pupils' mental health and emotional literacy, helping them learn how to manage feelings in a safe and respectful way.

Sustainability and Eco Awareness

As part of our Eco Enrichment work, the Peace Garden also:

- Encourages care for the natural environment
- Promotes biodiversity through thoughtful planting
- Reinforces the importance of maintaining green spaces
- Links pupils' wellbeing with connection to nature

Pupils understand that looking after the environment is closely connected to looking after ourselves and others.

Impact on Pupils and School Culture

The impact of the Peace Garden is visible in:

- Pupils' respect for the space and for one another
- Increased awareness of emotional wellbeing and empathy
- Pride in maintaining an area they created themselves
- A calm, inclusive school environment that values reflection and care

The garden continues to be maintained by pupils, reinforcing the message that this is a living, shared responsibility, not a one-time project.

The Peace Garden provides strong evidence for:

- Personal Development – wellbeing, empathy, responsibility and resilience
- Behaviour and Attitudes – respect for shared spaces and calm self-regulation
- Pupil Voice and Enrichment – meaningful, pupil-led projects
- SMSC Development – reflection, moral awareness and care for others
- Eco Enrichment – sustainability, biodiversity and environmental responsibility

