



Quick, Slow, Grow, Learn. Master Plan Performance Brief April 2013

DRAFT



By
Landscapes Naturally

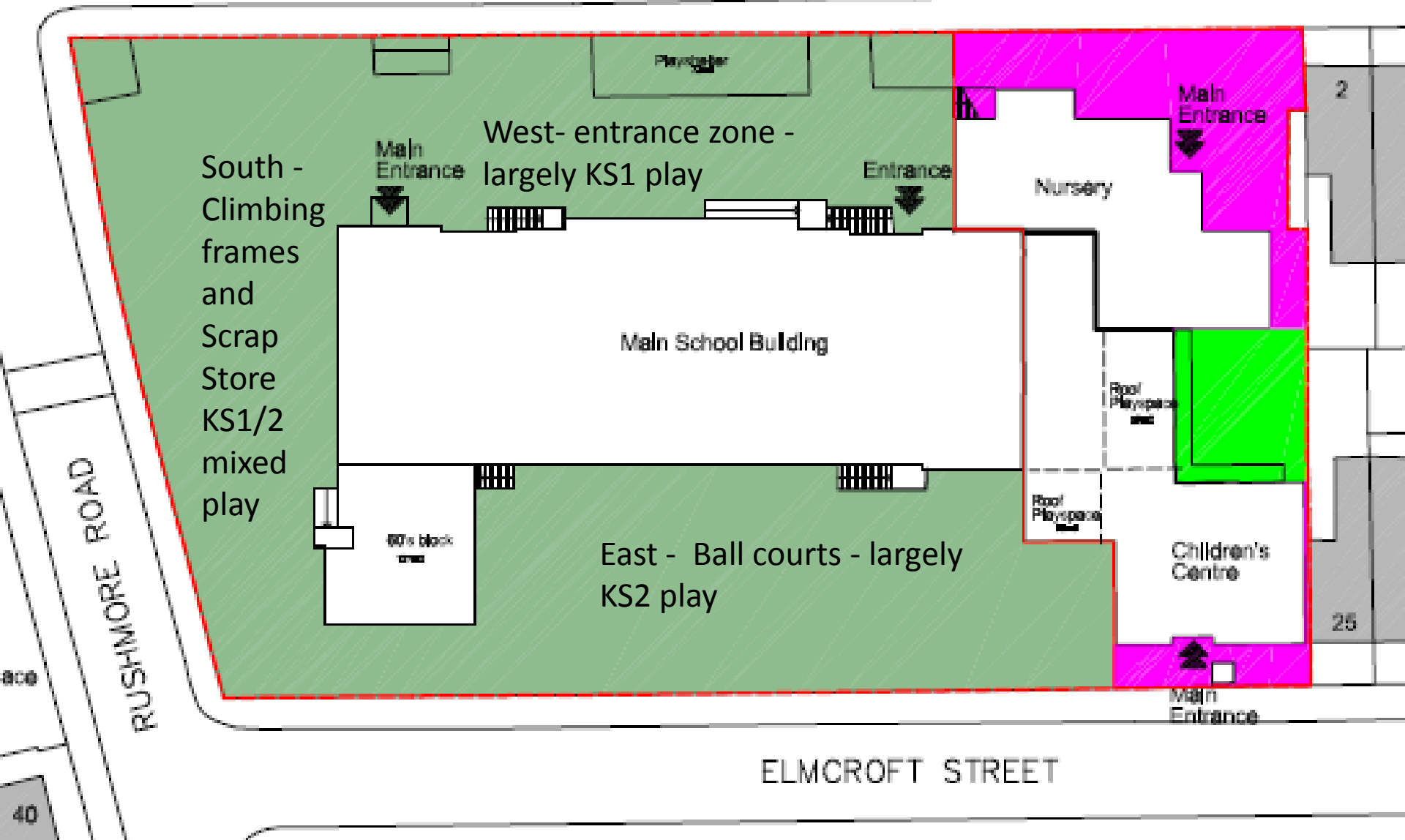
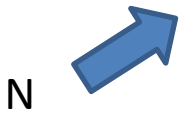
www.landscapesnaturally.co.uk

School Grounds Design Performance Brief

- Landscapes Naturally was commissioned to carry out a school community engagement process with meetings and workshops to establish the key issues, concerns and aspirations of the children, staff, parents and wider community for the future development of the school grounds.
- This report covers the Vision for KS1 and KS2. A separate report will address the specific needs of the Reception outside learning area.
- It is the intention of the school to reduce the emphasis on defining play spaces by age because KS1 and KS2 already mix in part of the playground. For this reason the playgrounds will be referred to in this report as West (largely KS1) South (mixed) and East (largely KS2)
- The Master Plan will also identify a 'quick wins' to maintain momentum for the project whilst fundraising is underway.

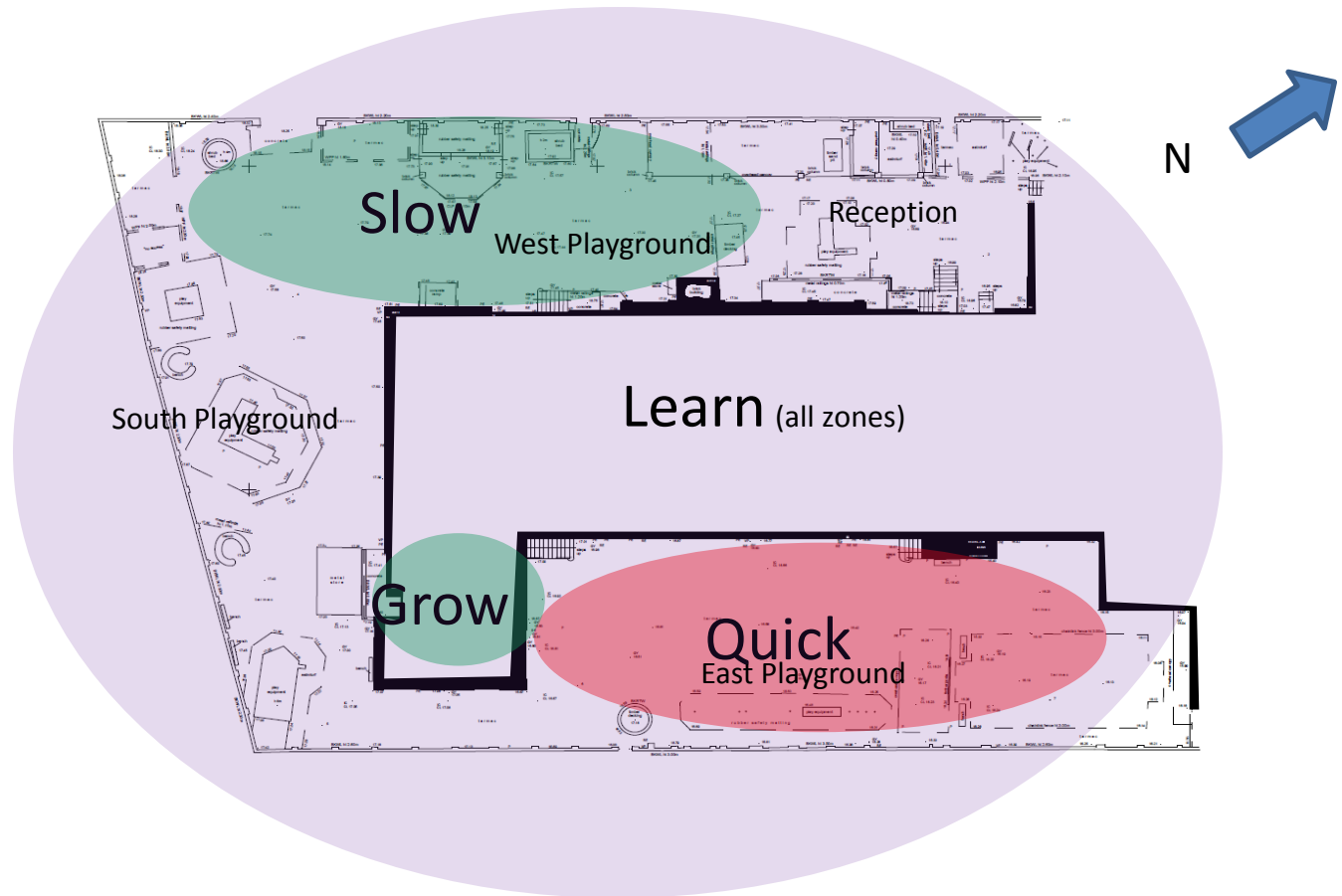


Current Arrangement

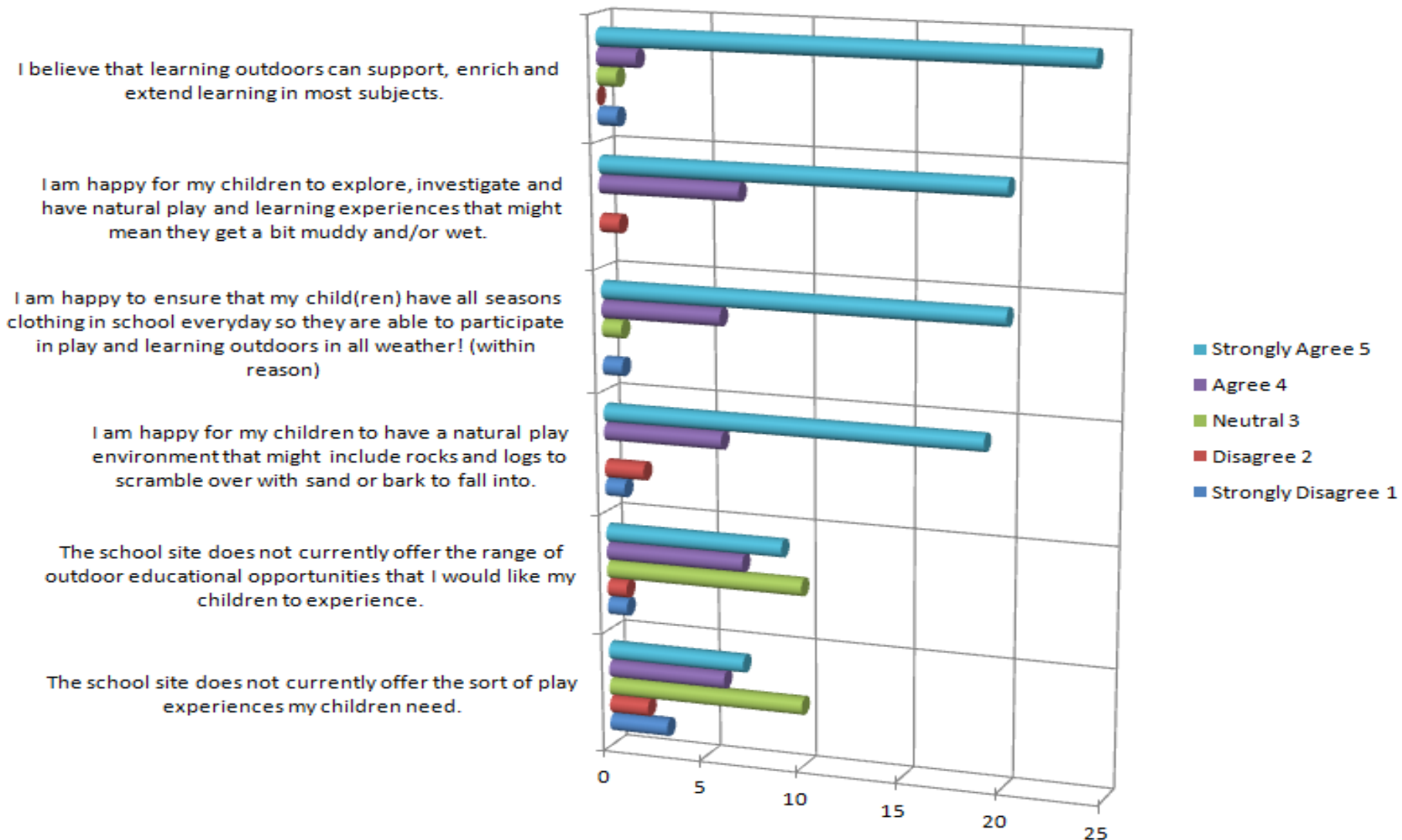


Proposed Broad Zone Arrangement

- The Master Plan will look at the site as a whole (Reception briefing to follow) taking the following key points into account.
- Zone by activity rather than (strictly) by age (although greater challenge at larger scale for more confident children will be located in East Playground)
- Design for a continuum from the Faster Active to the Slower Quieter play.
- All areas will have suitable seating/observing points
- Areas of open space will be available for versatile use, running and sports.
- Existing storage, bikes etc will be catered for.
- New circulation patterns resulting from moving the kitchen/dining to the ground floor will be taken into account



Parental Opinion



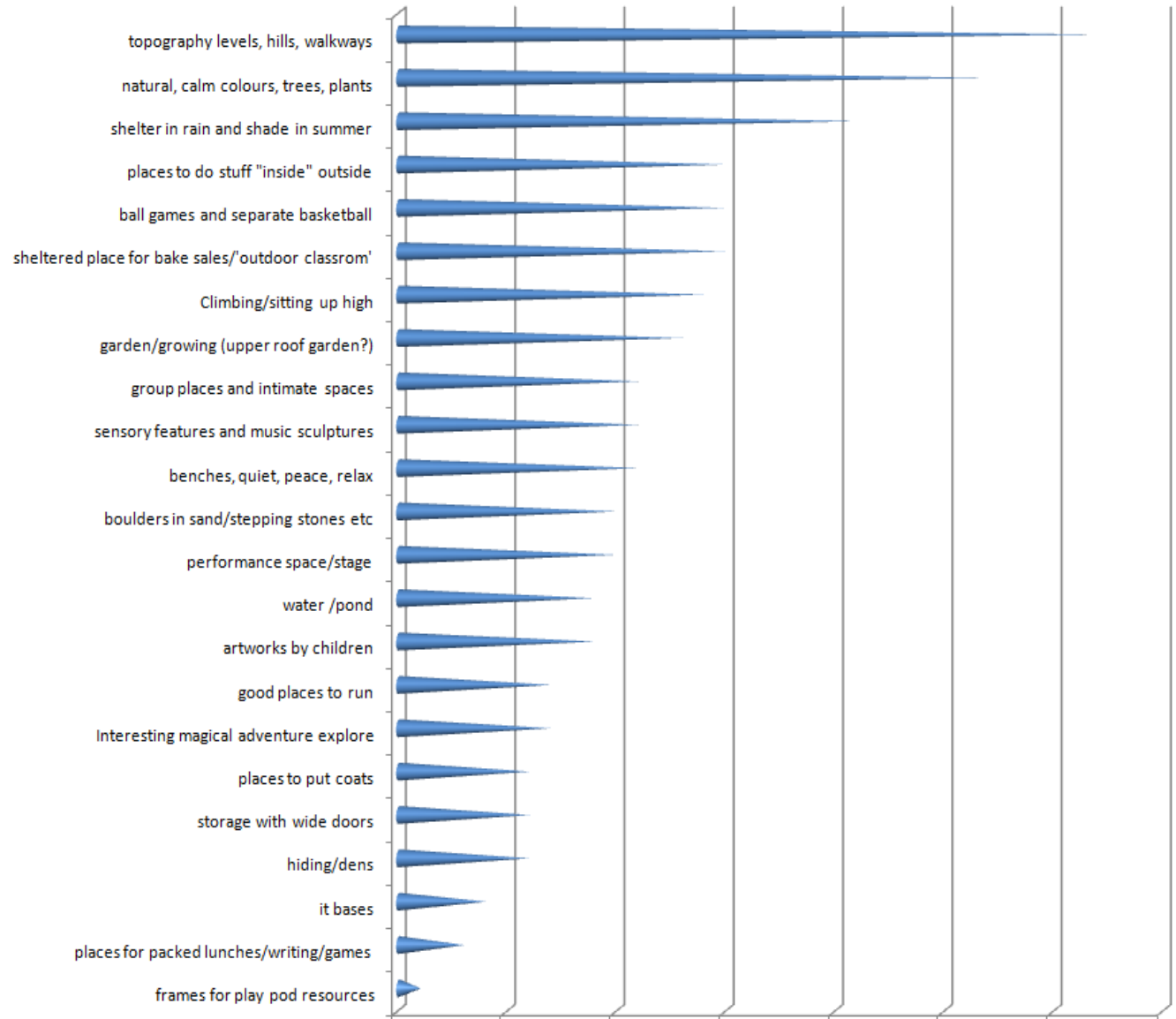
Priorities

This table was created through analysis of the consultation process, looking at the range of images selected, the votes of all participants, and the level of discussion and comment generated.

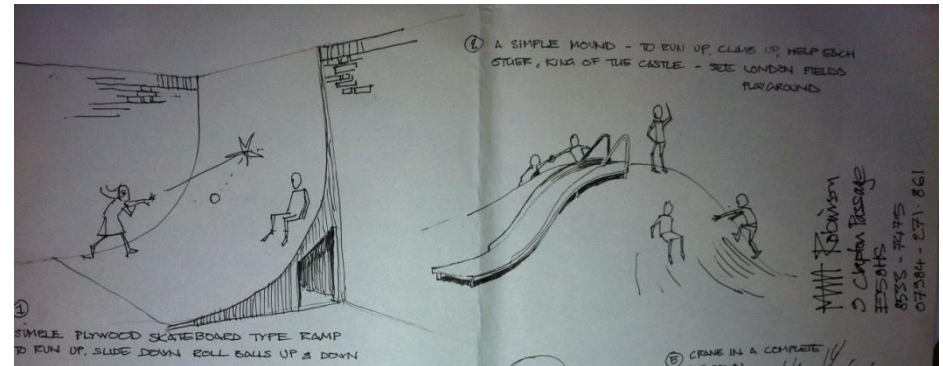
It is an overall guide to the priorities that should inform the Master Plan design.

Clearly there are areas of overlap, and some structures will be designed to be versatile and multi-purpose.

The report looks at each of these areas in more detail, recording key points.



Topography, different levels, hills walkways...

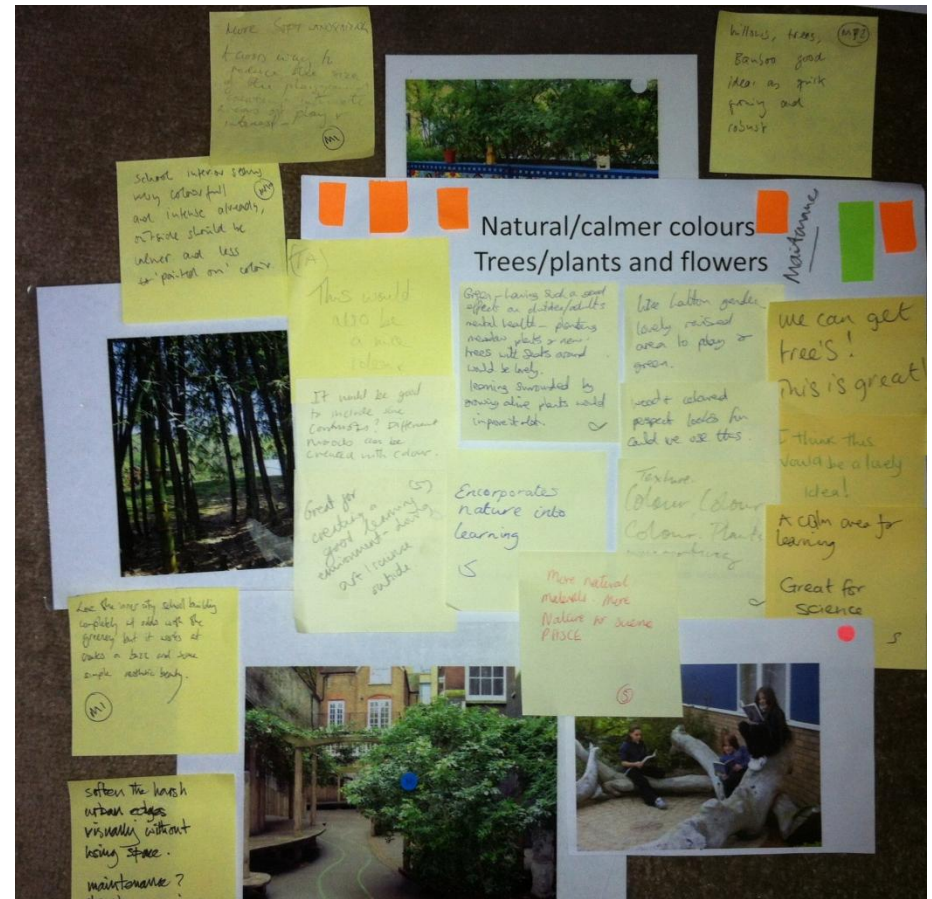


- This is number one priority.
- A very popular idea was to make the playground 'bigger' through using 3 dimensions and through offering a greater variety of activity.
- This also links to the wish to get 'up high'
- Routes and journeys around the site, at different levels, will be explored during master planning

Natural/calmer colours

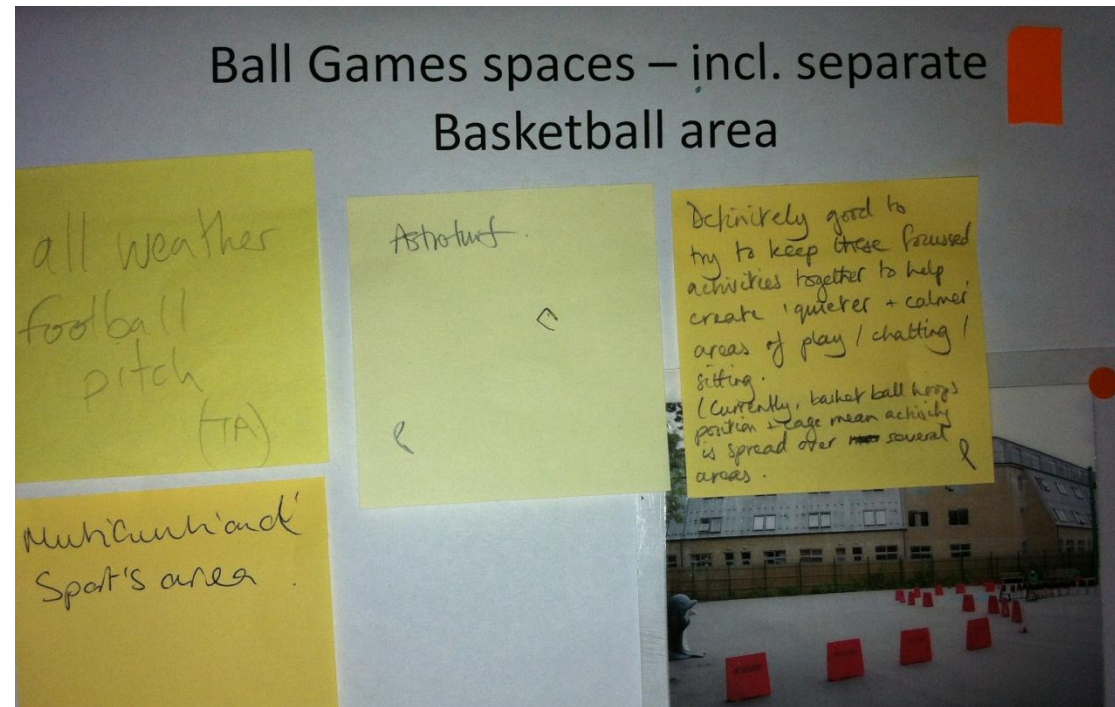
Trees/plants and flowers

- This is clearly a TOP priority for the school.
- Areas that offer a complete contrast to the urban environment are strongly favoured.
- Management and maintenance considerations need will be addressed during Master Planning.
- The image below, provoked considerable positive comment, using the vertical surfaces to introduce the natural world and seasonal change to the grounds, as well as sinuous decks/seating softening the lines.



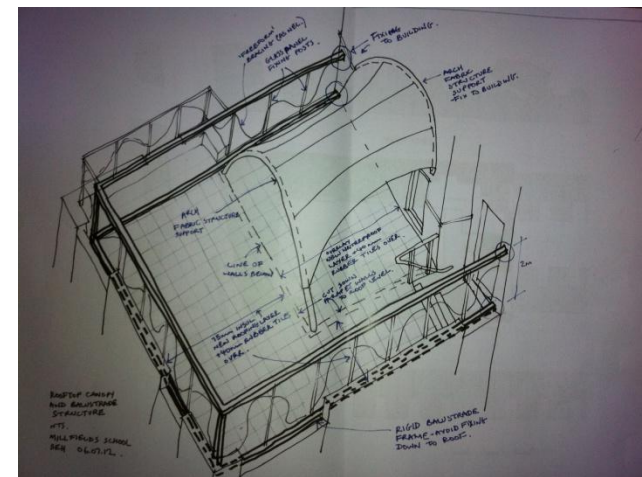
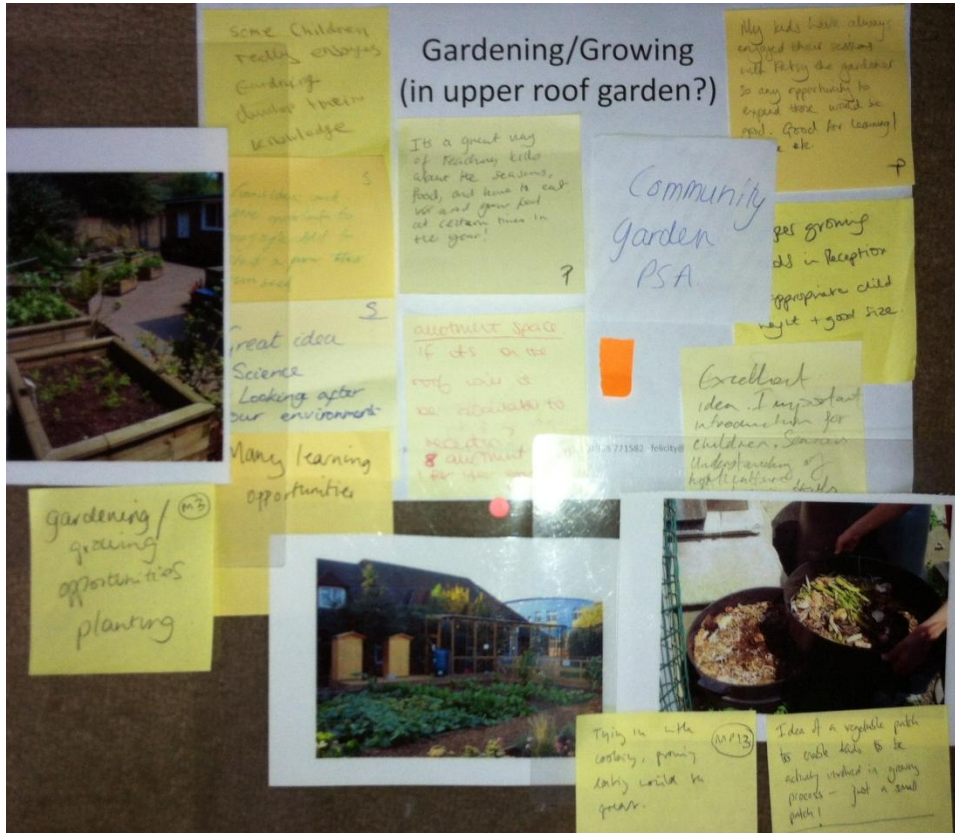
Ball Games spaces – incl. separate Basketball area

- Providing for PE and ball games is a key priority for the school, even though it did not rank highest in the analysis.
- The existing cage is small
- The large ball court is undefined, so ball games in this area spread to interfere with other activities at playtimes.
- Access routes to the East playground also impinge on ball games.
- PE requires a large marked ball court with markings for football, netball and basketball
- A place for cricket is also desirable.
- The Master Plan will show a mix of permanent and mobile barriers to define the ball court, and reduce the impact on adjacent activity.



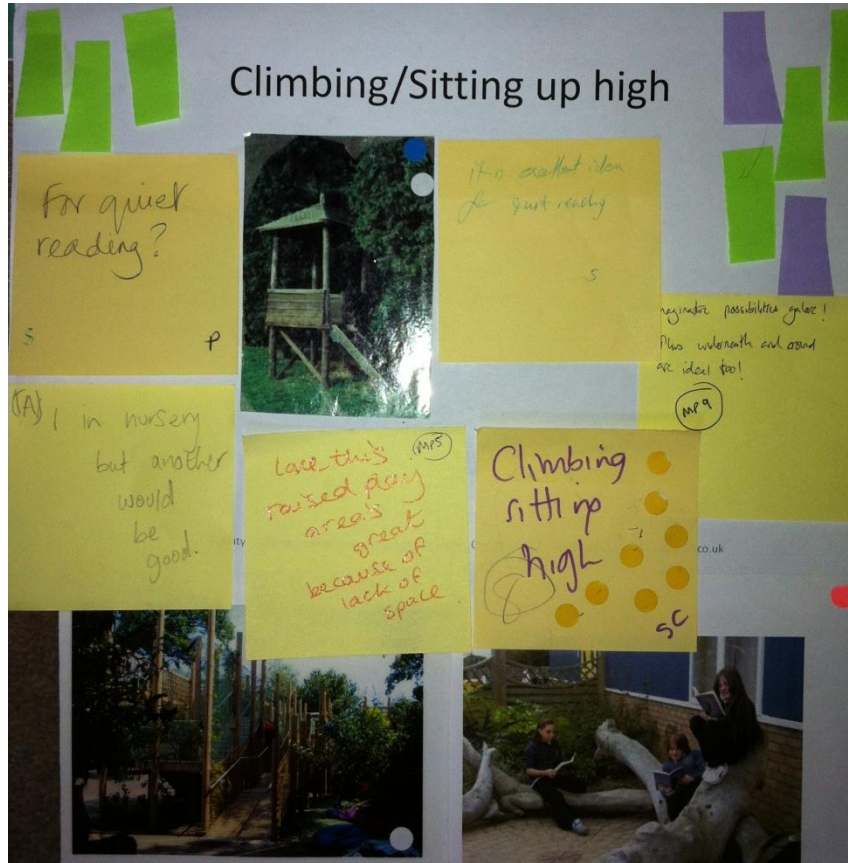
Gardening/Growing (in upper roof garden?)

- Gardening and associated activities prompted a good deal of discussion and positive comments.
- If this is located in the new roof garden, there is a concern that all children may not have access to it? (management discussion required)
- There is limited space at ground level for an effective growing garden, but this could well be provided in the roof top garden, by using raised planters around the walls, vertical planting etc.
- The details of this are beyond the scope of the Master Plan, but need further discussion, to ensure that all practicalities are covered.
- Felicity can work with the school on this in more detail, as required.



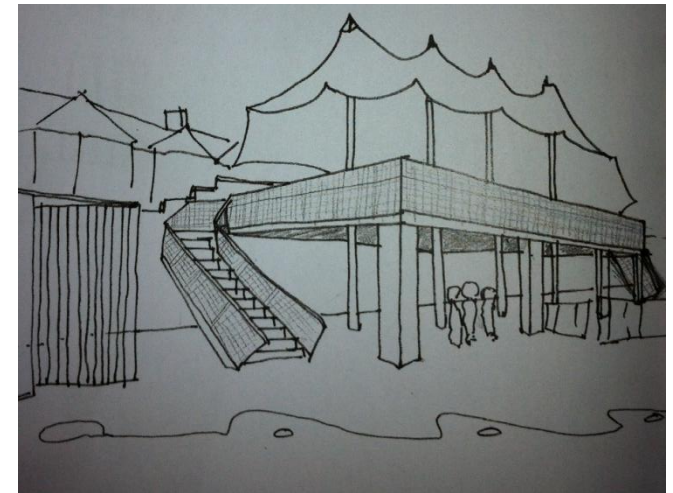
Climbing/Sitting up high

Climbing/Sitting up high



- Children are frequently observed sitting up high (e.g. on backs of benches), and they like to have vantage points to view activity around them
- They also need places to sit, chat, read (with or without friends) where faster play activity does not disturb them.
- Currently there are no such respite places.
- In the Master Plan there will be opportunities for vantage points, quiet places (west and south playgrounds) and spectating around the ball games areas (east playground)

- The new play deck on top of the shelter will provide a quiet place, but does not appear to have been designed to allow vantage points.
- The Master Plan will make some suggestions to the detailed design of this new structure, and the access to it



Group places and Intimate spaces

Benches and Quiet Places

Peaceful and relaxing

- The grounds lack a variety of places with different scale, character and purpose. The Master Plan will address this need.



Sensory features

Music sculptures

Artworks made by children

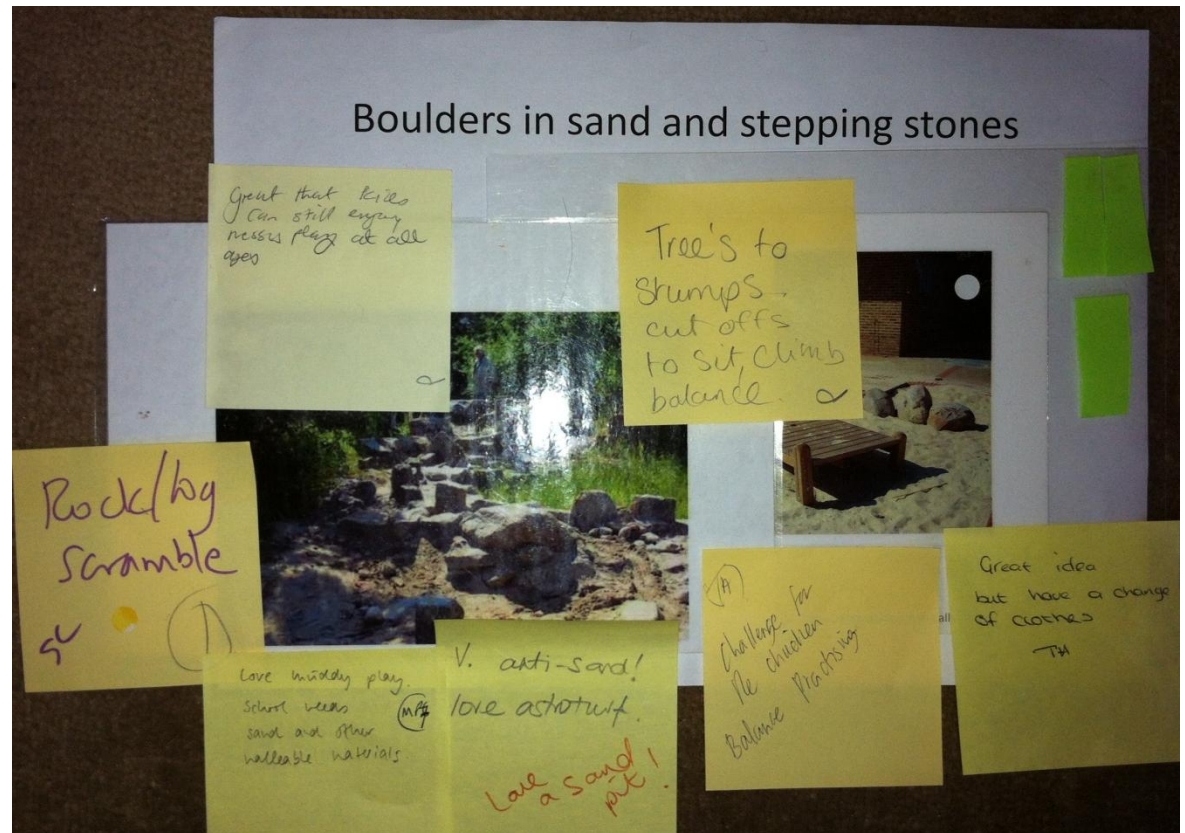
Elegant to look at and Tactile

- The school has strong display of children's work internally, but this is not matched externally.
- The grounds can be a great showcase for creativity as well as enhancing the play value of the spaces through adding imaginative detail.
- The Master Plan will identify key locations where artwork can be integral to structures. (eg posts, canopies/banners etc.
- Engaging the children throughout the construction phases, will give them a greater sense of achievement, and a lasting understanding of some building trades, through taking an active role in timber work, paving etc.
- There will also be a place for decorative details that can be added and refreshed for years to come. It will be important that the character of each zone and its purpose is reflected in appropriate artworks.



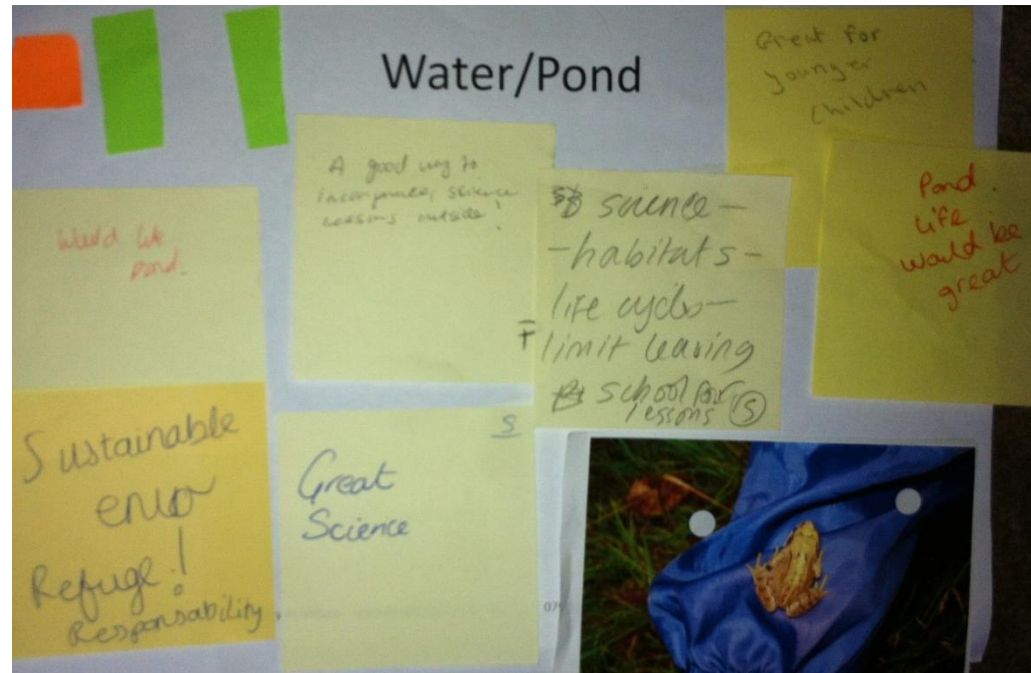
Boulders in sand and stepping stones

- Challenges provided by natural and unpredictable structures are very beneficial to children's development, balance, core strength and their ability to assess risk.
- There was some debate amongst adults about sand/grit as a fall surface.
- The Master Plan will consider options, and will aim to provide natural challenges in appropriate scale for older children on the East playground, and younger children in the west playground



Water/Pond

- A pond could be located in the new upper roof garden, as part of the food growing area. See page 10.
- This could be a raised pond with dipping access and associated habitats adjacent.
- This would offer microclimate amelioration to this roof top location and would also require a source of rain water to keep it topped up. (a water butt collecting rainwater from a potting shed roof, for example)



Interesting Magical Games and Adventures. Places to explore. Hiding and Dens

- The current play spaces offer little 'mystery'.
- The Master plan will explore how this can be provided whilst still maintaining surveillance and promoting positive behaviours.
- To an extent the Scrap Store already offers den making potential, but the Master Plan design can enhance this.
- 'Routes and Journeys' will also be designed into the scheme, to enhance creative and imaginative play.



Performance Space/Stage

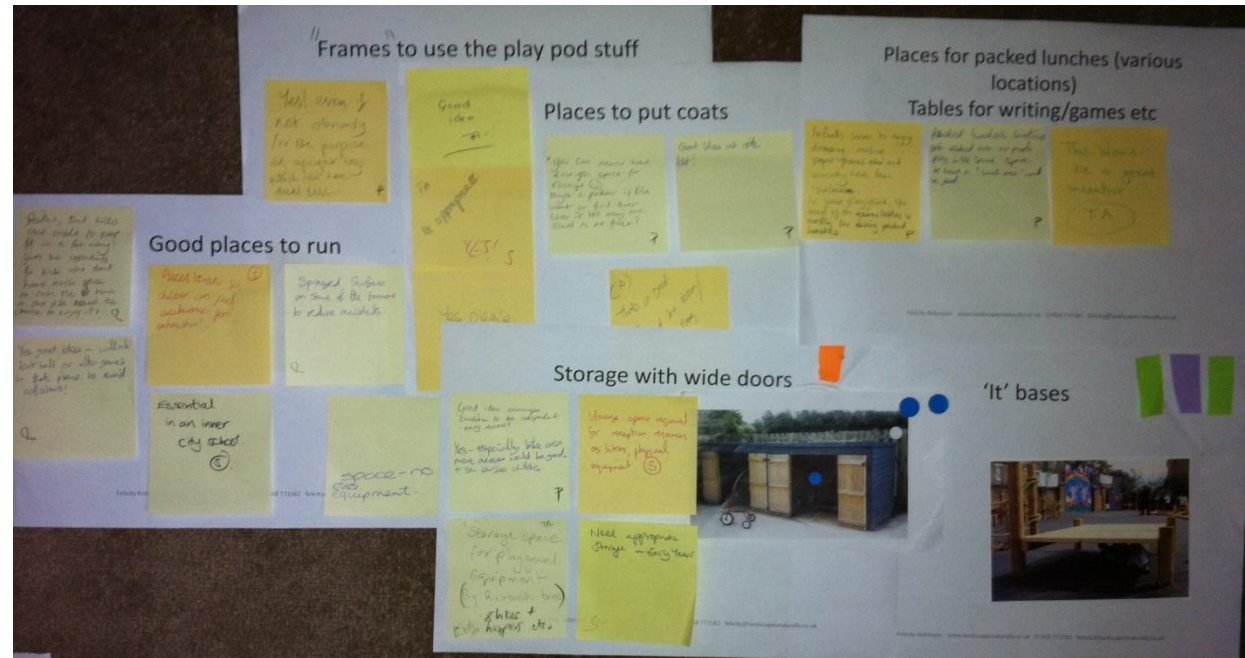
- The current stage area is well used at play time but poorly designed. It is seldom used during teaching time.
- The Master Plan will look at suitable modifications to remove the key issues (running through the back, hidden corners, narrow spaces, lack of shelter)
- A modified stage area will provide better for class gathering, performance, circle time etc. and for playtime use
- Power for music etc. would be beneficial.
- An additional larger performance space has also been discussed, with the scope for assembling a much larger audience. potentially suitable for outdoor assembly or productions.
- Power and lighting would enhance the practicality of this space.
- Dancing could be encouraged at playtimes if suitable music was played.



Additional Points, Storage and Play Pod

•The following are additional key items that arose during the consultation.

- Places to put coats
- Places for packed lunches (various locations)
- 'It' bases
- Frames to use the play pod stuff
- Tables for writing/games etc (could be the same places as for packed lunches)
- Open space for children to run freely



Storage and Play Pod.

Throughout the Master Plan Zone specific storage will be provided. This is essential for the effective functioning of each zone (eg dressing up props in the stage area)
The location of the play pod store will also be re-considered during Master Planning

Funding Possibilities

	ORGANISATION	Potential projects - suggestions
Amount available & Idea for funding uses		
£2 k Sensory garden?	Greggs Foundation	West playground natural play and/or retreat zone
£10 k Development of the stage (Outside literacy / Drama /Music learning space)	Awards for All	Both stages? – improvements to existing small stage (if retained) and structure of new larger stage/deck area.
Playground equipment £2 K ?	ASDA	...towards the topography/levels/walkways/being up high elements OR modifications to the ship to improve its value for play and playpod.
Materials only	B & Q	materials
We will aim for around £100K Will set this up once we have master plan.	Crowd Funding	whole site
Man power only	DeutscheBank	Possibly some painting?
?	Fair Share Trust (sign up)	
3k (literacy/numeracy linked proposal outside learning space)	Goldsmiths Company Charity	This could go towards changes to be made to the East playground shelter, as the structural details could focus on numeracy/ 3D/2D shape, number patterns etc etc
£750 (ARB) sensory garden or planting?	Lord Taverners (ARB) sensory garden?	West playground natural play and/or retreat zone

Funding Cont'd...

Amount available & Idea for funding uses	ORGANISATION	Potential projects
£2 K ?	Mercers	Modifications to the ship to improve its value for play and playpod.
Up to £150k	Rayne Foundation	
(quiet zone?)	Santander Foundation	West or east playground quiet zones/or modifications to the ship to improve its value for play and playpod.
4 k Wooden play equipment	Tesco Charity Trust	...towards the topography/levels/walkways/being up high elements OR modifications to the ship to improve its value for play and playpod.
Trees	London Orchard Company	West Playground landscape works

Curriculum Delivery - detailing

- During the design of the details we shall explore further opportunities for adding details that can support specific areas of learning eg
 - 2D and 3D shapes, tessellations etc both obvious and more subtle.
 - Meter/cm markers, horizontally and vertically
 - Materials choices
 - Structural features
 - etc

Management and Maintenance comments

- The Master Plan will highlight areas that will have management and maintenance implications that will need further discussion, such as:-
 - Trees/shrubs
 - Natural materials and loose parts
 - Gardening/food growing
 - Etc.

Next Steps

- Please circulate widely and feedback any errors and/or edits.
- Preliminary Master Plan sketches will be produced April/May.
- We shall aim for an agreed costed Master Plan for the whole site by the end of Summer term
- (although one element (ball court/fast play) may take a faster track)