



East Midlands

*In Bloom*

**2010**

# **EAST MIDLANDS IN BLOOM**

## Best School Garden Special Award

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#### **Contact addresses:**

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East Midlands in Bloom enquiries to: [jeff.bates64@o2.co.uk](mailto:jeff.bates64@o2.co.uk)

Or visit [www.eastmidlandsinbloom.co.uk](http://www.eastmidlandsinbloom.co.uk) to download entry forms

## INTRODUCTION

East Midlands in Bloom is an annual campaign open to villages, towns and cities in Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland.

The campaign is organized by the East Midlands in Bloom Committee and aims to encourage the improvement of local surroundings through horticultural achievement, environmental responsibility and community participation.

In 2007 East Midlands in Bloom introduced a special award for the 'Best School Garden'.

The aim of this guidance is to help schools gain as much as possible from gardening activities for their pupils and from entering the campaign.

East Midlands in Bloom also organizes a painting campaign for school children and a digital photography campaign for pupils of all ages. Full details and entry forms can be found at [www.eastmidlandsinbloom.co.uk](http://www.eastmidlandsinbloom.co.uk)

## WHO CAN ENTER?

Each "In Bloom" entrant can choose **one** school to represent them in the campaign. If your local group has approached you, the following information will help you decide whether you would like to represent your local area.

If you have found out about the campaign but have not been approached by your local "In Bloom" group and you would like to enter you should first find out if you have a local "In Bloom" group and if they have already entered a school. (Contact East Midlands in Bloom on 01332 679598 or email [jeff.bates64@o2.co.uk](mailto:jeff.bates64@o2.co.uk))

While over 150 communities, villages, towns and cities throughout the region enter East Midlands in Bloom there may not be a local in bloom group in your area. You can still enter the campaign as long as another school in your area has not already entered this year, which you can check with the East Midlands in Bloom Office, details above

If you have decided to enter please complete the enclosed application form and return it to be received no later than Friday **May 28<sup>th</sup>**

## GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS

You may be entering for the first time or your garden may still be a 'work in progress'. Creating lovely gardens takes time and your garden does not have to be complete or perfect. By entering the campaign you can gain an indication of the level you have achieved to date, as well as the judge's comments and suggestions. If you enter again you can endeavour to improve your score and the level of your award.

The Judging Criteria below sets out the key features of school gardening the campaign is looking for. You can still enter even though you may not yet have started projects or gardens within particular criteria. This may affect your total possible score and the level of award you receive, but should not prevent you entering. The judge will be interested to hear if you have plans to develop your garden/s further.

The judging criteria cover a wide range of gardening activities, which we hope children will be participating in. While we appreciate that adults will need to help children in their gardening activities and that for health and safety reasons some activities may therefore be carried out by adults, we do expect to see the maximum possible participation by children. Gardens created for children and maintained for them without their participation cannot be entered in the campaign.

## JUDGING CRITERIA

There are five judging criteria:

1. Gardening activities, skills and knowledge
2. The Garden's contribution to education and the curriculum
3. Value in sustaining the environment and wildlife
4. Growing fruit and vegetables and healthy eating
5. Design, Management and Maintenance

Each section is marked out of 20, giving a maximum possible score of 100.

MARKS	CRITERIA AND DESCRIPTION
20%	<p><b>1. GARDENING ACTIVITIES, SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE</b></p> <p>Demonstrable involvement of each class and maximum practicable number of pupils in activities that introduce them to gardening and develop their skills and knowledge. Year round growing activities and gardening club(s) with regular meetings. Use of raised beds or plots and introducing pupils to the principles of rotation, timing and growing cycle of a range of crops, annuals, and perennials with some basic plant recognition.</p>
20%	<p><b>2. THE GARDEN'S CONTRIBUTION TO EDUCATION AND THE CURRICULUM</b></p> <p>Classes held outdoors and use of outdoor classroom. Imaginative use of the garden in teaching in a wide range of curriculum subjects</p>
20%	<p><b>3. VALUE IN SUSTAINING THE ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE</b></p> <p>Effective composting and water collection to sustain the garden through the year. Planting to encourage wildlife e.g. woodland areas with good tree planting practice, native planting, wild flowers etc. Examples of features for wildlife e.g. ponds, log piles, hedgehog houses, bird/bat/insect boxes etc. Evidence of wildlife observation.</p>
20%	<p><b>4. GROWING FRUIT AND VEGETABLES AND HEALTHY EATING</b></p> <p>Demonstrable evidence of pupils' involvement in and knowledge of growing food in their garden and then making use of it. (Tasting sessions through to use in cookery or the school kitchen where possible). Food awareness from plot to plate.</p>
20%	<p><b>5. DESIGN, MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE</b></p> <p>Plans for the garden and its development. Garden layout – aesthetic and practical elements including accessibility, health and safety issues. Organisation, location and practical use of gardens and growing areas. Overall impression – plant quality, colour and variety, attention to detail and well maintained hard landscape features. Care and maintenance by pupils. Holiday maintenance arrangements. Links to good quality advice and schemes (RHS, Garden Organic, Food for Life, local horticultural enterprise or experts)</p>

## THE AWARDS

Every school that enters the campaign will receive an award. The levels of awards are as follows:

85% +	Gold
75-84%	Silver Gilt
60-74%	Silver
50-59%	Bronze
0-49%	Certificate of Achievement

## JUDGING

An East Midlands in Bloom judge will visit your school at a pre-arranged and agreed\* date during the judging period which is from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2010.

\*The judge will contact you approximately three to four weeks before the judging fortnight to arrange a suitable time for the visit. We appreciate that the term may end at different times depending on your area and if at all possible we will try to avoid coming during the last week of your term.

Depending on the size of your garden the judge will allocate 30 minutes up to a maximum of one hour to see your garden.

## PORTFOLIO

As the judging can only take place on one day in July we ask schools to prepare a portfolio to show the judge on their visit. This should show the garden(s) at different times of year and the range of activities that the pupils have taken part in. Photographs, comments, children's work and lesson plans and any other material you think suitable can be included.

Portfolios can be organized in any way you wish but do try to demonstrate how you are meeting the judging criteria. Some suggestions include a section for each class; a chronological diary; by type of activity or garden. Before, during and after photographs of gardens in development or the progress of projects are particularly useful.

Schools can still enter the campaign without producing a portfolio but it will restrict the marks the judge can award without demonstrable evidence.

Portfolios produced for the campaign can also be a very useful record to demonstrate progress and to show to OFSTED inspectors, visitors to the school, new pupils etc.

## PREPARING FOR THE JUDGE'S VISIT

Ideally with children involved in your gardening projects or club/s, plan a route to show the judge around your gardens.

On the day the judge would like to be shown around the garden(s) by a small group of pupils and the member of staff or adult who is most involved in your school's gardening projects. The judge will also be pleased to meet the head teacher but this is not essential.

## THE JUDGE'S VISIT

The judging will need to go ahead at the pre-arranged time regardless of the weather. While viewing the gardens, with your permission, the judge would like to take photographs of the gardens and one with the children.

Photographs can help the judge afterwards when writing up their report and also photos of the winning school garden will be shown at the East Midlands in Bloom Presentation of Awards which is held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

During the tour of the gardens the judge would like to talk to the children about their gardens and the gardening activities. Before or after seeing the garden/s the judge would like to look at your portfolio and talk to the children and/or a key adult.

It is possible your local In Bloom group may also want to include your school on their route when your local area is being judged, although this is likely to only be a brief visit. They will arrange this directly with you. Please note, this may be on a different date to that planned for the Special Award for Best School Garden judging.

## RESULTS AND AWARDS

The winning school will be invited to send representatives to the awards ceremony. No details of the awards will be announced before this event. Each school will receive their certificate and the judge's report either from their local In Bloom group or it will be sent directly to you.

Soon after the awards ceremony all the reports are made available on the East Midlands in Bloom web site.

## HELP AND ADVICE

If you would like any more information or advice about the campaign or gardening in school you can contact your local 'In Bloom' group or the East Midlands in Bloom Children's and Schools Coordinator.

## CONTACT DETAILS

Local 'In Bloom' Group.....

Name ..... Telephone .....

Email: .....

Children's and Schools Coordinator Valerie Farrow – please email initially to **valeriefarrow@phoncoop.coop**