



EAST MIDLANDS IN BLOOM

Best School Garden Special Award

Information for all East Midlands "In Bloom" Groups

In 2009 24 schools entered the Best School Garden Special Award and the standard of school gardens continued to rise. We hope more schools will enter in 2010. So that schools can gain more from the "In Bloom" campaign and to help them in the development of their gardens we have produced an information pack, which includes new and more detailed judging criteria.

A key aspect of the Best School Garden Special Award judging is the completion of a portfolio. To give your representative the best possible opportunity to do well, the school needs to know as soon as possible that they have been chosen to represent you. This will give them the time to record their activities and projects as described in the information pack.

If you have not already chosen a school please try to do so by the end of February, giving them the information pack so that they can decide whether or not to enter. If they decide against entering, this still gives you time to find another school.

In the last two years we felt some schools had insufficient notice of the award and information about it and so were unable to prepare fully for it or produce a portfolio. You can still choose a school later this term but it may put them at a disadvantage, having less time to plan and prepare, nevertheless potentially there will still be much to be gained from entering the 2010 Special Award.

We know that some "In Bloom" areas choose their representative from a local competition during the summer term. In this case it would be advisable to give all possible contenders the information pack.

This year we are introducing an entry form specifically for the Best School Garden Special Award and we are asking schools to complete the more detailed entry forms themselves. The additional information will help in the planning of the judging schedule.

WHAT TO DO NOW

If you have chosen the school to represent your "In Bloom" campaign, please make sure the school receives the information pack and entry form as soon as possible. In the information pack on the last page there is a section for you to enter **your** contact details.

If you are still deciding whether or who to enter, referring to last year's judging reports on the East Midlands in Bloom website will give a good indication of what is happening in school gardens across the region.

A NEW WINNER IN 2010

There will be a new winner of the Best School Garden Award in 2010. Spire Infant School from Chesterfield, who has won the competition for the last three years since its inception in 2007, will not be entering this year.

LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD

The ideal time for a school to know it has been chosen to represent you is at the start of the new school year. As the 2010 campaign ends at the Awards Ceremony in September, this is ideal time to choose your school for 2011.

Over the next two years we hope all "In Bloom" groups will be able to enter a school in the campaign. A lot can be achieved in a few months and this would be a good start for 2010, aiming to develop further for 2011. We have seen that with real commitment some schools have been able to achieve really amazing results.

Valerie Farrow and Rupert Atkinson

January 2010



ENTRY FORM

East Midlands in Bloom Best School Garden Special Award 2010

To be completed by the nominated school.
Please complete and return both sides (i.e. pages 3 & 4) of this form:

REPRESENTING or NAME OF LOCAL "IN BLOOM" AREA (e.g. Melton in Bloom)

.....
(Only one entry is allowed per "In Bloom" area)

NAME OF SCHOOL.....

ADDRESS.....
.....

POSTCODE..... TELEPHONE (inc. area code).....

NAME OF ADULT RESPONSIBLE FOR GARDENING ACTIVITIES/CLUBS:

.....

Please delete as appropriate:

Is this person: A member of the teaching staff/parent/volunteer/other (please state below)

.....

Email address (where possible) to enable direct contact with named adult

.....

And/or phone number if they are not based at school.....

Please give details of days and times (morning/afternoon) when the named adult could be available to meet the judge(s):

.....

.....

Please continue overleaf

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WILL HELP WITH THE PLANNING OF THE JUDGING SCHEDULE ACROSS THE REGION:

Date of the last day of term.....

Normal school hours: From..... To

Number of pupils Age range.....

In order to allocate sufficient time for judging please tick the box that best describes your garden(s)

We are starting to develop a garden or we have a small garden

Our garden(s) is/are becoming established and we are continuing to develop new areas

We have extensive gardens, most of which are well established.

Are your gardens contained within an area close to the school or spread around a large site?

Please give a brief description.....

.....
.....
.....

Please delete as appropriate:

Have you received and read the East Midlands in Bloom Information Pack for the Best School Garden Award?

YES/NO

If NO please contact your local 'In Bloom' group or refer to the East Midlands in Bloom website (www.eastmidlandsinbloom.co.uk)

SIGNEDDATE.....

NAME.....POSITION.....
(Block capitals please)

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:

Irene Bates
EMiB Best School Garden
64 Chaddesden Park Road
Derby
DE21 6HD

BY NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 28th MAY 2010