

## **Information regarding the council's support for schools for the scrutiny review into the enhancement of biodiversity in urban Portsmouth.**

Supplied by the Deputy Director of Children, Families and Education - Education

### **How well is it going?**

I don't know enough of the detail of our work with schools in terms of green infrastructure but where schools have engaged. I know it has been very well received and the report gives some good examples of this. There is a lot of opportunity here and it fits well with the curriculum and the work schools are doing to make children aware of their environment and climate change.

### **What are the barriers to engaging with schools?**

Schools are currently under a lot of pressure due to the impact of the pandemic and the number of children (and staff) who are absent, both in primary and secondary. This is the main barrier to engagement at the moment but hopefully this will improve as we go past the peak of the latest wave of infections.

Some of our primary schools have very little space and no green space so this will limit their engagement. It does vary across the city.

### **Is there normally just one person in the school who takes responsibility for the projects? Is there a consistent approach?**

The main point of contact will be the Headteacher, particularly in primary schools. There will not be a consistent approach due to the diverse mix of schools and Multi Academy Trusts that we have.

### **What could be improved?**

I'm not sure there is much more we can do to improve things. Communications have been good and the Education Service is more than happy to promote the work and support the engagement of schools through our weekly communications to schools (PEP bulletin and Friday message to Heads) and our monthly briefings with Headteachers.

### **Are there any policies that help/ hinder your work? Plus any other points you would like to make.**

None.