



News Release

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Students' Grand Designs to transform city's smallest playground

Edinburgh's smallest playground is about to be transformed as staff and students from the University of Edinburgh give it a major overhaul.

Working with parents and teachers from Preston Street Primary School, and environmental charity and social enterprise Greenworks, they will create new places to hide and climb, and add a splash of vibrant colour to the playground.

They will work together to build a range of outdoor furniture and play equipment, based on a wish list created by pupils.

A team from the Edinburgh School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture and Moray House School of Education have been challenged to design and implement a range of creative renovations in one week.

Parents and teachers formed a Playground Development Group in 2013 with the aim of improving the playground, which was mostly tarmac and surrounded by a busy road.

The University has been working for more than a year with the group to enhance the area and develop outdoor learning and teaching.

It is hoped the week-long project will enhance the playground even further, making it a place where children can enjoy outdoor learning and play.

The workshop is part of Innovative Learning Week, a week-long programme of events replacing regular timetables with opportunities for students and staff to develop new skills, prepare for employment and work in the community.

Dr Ola Uduku, Project Leader and Reader in Architecture, said: "We are thrilled to see this project come to fruition. The enthusiasm from our students is fantastic and they are really enjoying working with the community. I'm sure pupils will be thrilled at the unveiling and we look forward to continuing our work with Preston Street – developing the playground further in the future and carrying out Moray House's research in outdoor learning."

Preston Street Head Teacher Maureen Allan said: "It's been fantastic to see the scale of community involvement in this project. The improvements have made a huge difference to the overall feel of the space and provide new opportunities for pupils' imaginative play and learning."

Journalists and photographers are invited to see the outcome of the project at an open afternoon in Preston Street playground on Friday 20 February from 1-3pm. To confirm attendance, please contact Sam Pringle on 07954433659 or Kathryn Dunlop (details below).

For further information please contact: Kathryn Dunlop, Press and PR Office, tel 0131 651 5587; email kathryn.dunlop@ed.ac.uk

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