



About Oaklands School

Oaklands School – Ferry Road, Edinburgh, <https://oaklandsedinburgh.com>

Oaklands School provides education for children and young people with complex, long-term additional support needs where the presumption of mainstream cannot be met and a significantly modified learning environment is required. Learners' needs are primarily associated with learning disability and significant visual/sensory, health and medical needs.

Oaklands benefits from onsite multi-disciplinary therapy and medical teams in addition to education staff, helping learners achieve their full potential. The school serves a wide area, with pupils aged 3 to 18 years attending from throughout the city of Edinburgh and the Lothians.

How Accies can help

Nursery, primary and senior pupils have dedicated playgrounds, together with a shared "Millenium Wood", each of which contain a variety of sensory-based experiences. Light and shade, tactile planting and auditory experiences provide stimuli for the children.

These areas get overgrown quite quickly. Much of the planting needs to be close enough to touch, small grassy areas need to be maintained for the children to sit out and pathways sufficiently clear to allow access. There are also memorial areas in the gardens that need to be maintained.

Ideally we are looking to provide regular ground maintenance (of one, some or all play areas), perhaps monthly, especially during the warmer months. Tasks could include:

- Preparing/planting planters
- Cutting back bushes and plants
- Weeding
- Clearing pathways
- Grass cutting
- Scrubbing the "soft top" areas (rubber-type coverings on the ground)
- Building/maintaining willow tunnels (willow would need to be cut and stripped, quite a time-consuming job)

The school has gardening equipment but no petrol lawnmower, and a power-washing tool (for the soft top areas and pathways) would also be hugely useful.

What we are able to achieve will depend on the number of volunteers and frequency of volunteer availability. Family, friends and colleagues are more than welcome to volunteer. *If you are interested, please remember to check with your employer, in case your company grants volunteering days as part of its social corporate responsibility commitments.*

If you would like to volunteer, please email anneedinburghaccies@gmail.com and we can take it from there. Thank you.