

SuDS Planters

Kent Primary Schools



Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) reduce the risk of flooding by mimicking natural processes for water management. They are often found within an urban setting where natural processes are scarce.

SuDS planters capture surface water runoff from rooftops. This helps manage the volume of water within the local drainage network as the water is retained in the planter before infiltrating slowly into the ground or back into the drainage network.

School estates provide an ideal opportunity to deliver SuDS, helping to protect the school infrastructure and deliver wider benefits to both pupils and the community.

KCC Flood and Water Management team work closely with schools to ensure the SuDS Planters will be appropriate for reducing their flood risk and of a design that fits in with the school environment.

Working with the Countryside Partnerships (CP) also provided the opportunity for pupils to get involved with planting the drainage features.

In June and July 2024, several SuDS planters were installed in schools to reduce the amount of surface water from roof drainage entering combined sewer systems. SuDS planters intercept roof surface water run-off before connecting to the drainage network at a reduced flow rate. Reducing surface water flows into the combined system helps to alleviate pressure on the existing drainage infrastructure which may be overwhelmed during heavy rainfall.



Photo of SuDS planters at Ryarsh Primary.

Each school was offered KCC funding for a maximum of three SuDS planters to be installed and planted.

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The **SuDS Planters in primary schools'** programme has been delivered as a partnership between the Kent County Council Flood and Water Management Team, Medway Valley CP and North-West Kent CP.

The schools involved included:

- Otford Primary, Sevenoaks
- Ryarsh Primary, Maidstone
- St. Edmund's Primary, West Kingsdown

The installation of SuDS planters in schools also gave an opportunity for the pupils to get involved too.



Photos of SuDs planters at St Edmunds Primary and Otford Primary.

“All these planters have really brightened up dull areas. The fact they are sustainable too is amazing! So much thought has gone into this, and we are just so proud to say that we have been given such an amazing thing.”

- Ryarsh Primary School (3 planters installed), June 2024.

“The effectiveness of the two planters at Otford Primary School have already been successfully tested, as there was a high rainfall event just after the installation was completed.”

- North-West Kent CP, August 2024.

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