



The Green, Ferry Fryston

"The Green is a strip of parkland in one of the most deprived parts of the town and Wakefield District."

from The Castleford Project Website



The Green is immediately opposite our school so where better to start the Year 5 topic of improving the local environment.

We visited the park a number of times and every visit began with dire warnings about needles, dog mess, strangers and broken glass. Then we stopped and looked around us to see what The Green was really like. We took digital photographs of the worst bits, we measured the park with a variety of different tools (including rulers!), we used our senses to observe closely and write poems. Then we went back to class and talked about it all.

We talked about what was good (not much, but there was potential), what was bad (too much) and then we got to the point – what could we do about it?

Imaginations fired, we wrote persuasive letters and leaflets depicting the horrors of the park and we provided solutions too. We examined maps and located important features of the local area. We mapped the immediate area around the park using Ordnance Survey maps and graphical modelling software. We redesigned the park layout and we cut the digital photographs in half and drew in the place we would like to visit.

All of the children in the class were actively engaged, regardless of ability, it was their park and someone wanted their opinion, their voices counted. They became more confident and articulate in discussion and arguing their opinion. Listening skills also improved because they wanted to agree or disagree with the speaker.

It was wonderful working with a class of 9 and 10 year olds who were convinced, just for a few weeks of the summer term, that they could make their world a better place.



OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES

Activities in the Park

- Taking digital photographs
- Measuring the park with a variety of equipment
- Using our senses to observe the park's features

Activities in the Classroom

- Locate Castleford, the Green and important local features on maps at different scales.
- Discussion and debate about good and bad points of the park and what could be done about it
- Writing persuasive letters and leaflets
- Using Ordnance Survey maps to identify features of surrounding area
- Mapping the area using graphical modelling software
- Drawing plans of our regenerated park
- Cut the digital photographs in half and redrawing.

