

PALLET SEATING WITH / WITHOUT A FLEXIBLE ROOF

Providing flexible seating in the school grounds offers many advantages for example, an opportunity for pupils to socialise, as a resource to create smaller, quieter spaces and as an area to gather a class before and during a lesson outdoors. There are lots of examples available depending on your needs, for example carpet tiles, foam mats, waterproof beanbags, log stumps and wooden pallets

Definition

Recycling wooden pallets is a cheap and easy way to create low level, accessible seating on a flat surface. Several pallets in one location can accommodate a class of children. Foam mats or one large foam block covered in material laid on top of the pallets will provide comfort. Whilst the pallets can be left outdoors, the foam matting can be stored inside (or in a low level storage chest nearby) to ensure there is always something dry to sit on after rain.

Procedure

Pallets can often be obtained for free, but must always be checked before use to remove any nails or splintered wood. Older pupils could get involved with sanding, if required.

Survey your grounds to identify the best location for a group of pallets.

You may decide to fix your pallets together and attach boarding on top to create a flat surface.

Consider the use of a tarpaulin, or other material, to create a flexible, temporary roof over your pallet seating area to create shade and shelter. Make use of the vertical surface surrounding your pallet seating (for example the boundary fence or wall) to attach the material using rope or ball bungees (example supplier www.muddyfaces.co.uk)

The pallet seating can be used to gather a class of pupils during a lesson outdoors, but also offers a range of other opportunities such as a stage for drama and role play and



an outdoor meeting space for pupil groups (for example the Eco Committee or Pupil Council). Bear in mind that pallets are usually made of low quality wood, therefore regular checks

will be required to ensure the seating is safe to use. Replace and recycle any damage pallets as required.



If your pallet seating is on the grass, it may be helpful to erect wooden posts with hooks around the area to help with attaching a temporary roof.

Tips

- There are a range of pallet cushion suppliers available online.
- If you are making use of a temporary roof, such as a tarpaulin, during damp weather make sure you angle the material slightly to ensure rainwater doesn't gather in a pool in the centre.
- Pallets can be painted to add colour and interest.

*The material is co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union
Project number: 2017-1-SK01-KA201-035316*

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