

PALLET STAGES

Performances on a stage in front of an audience are a feature of the school experience from public presentations, expressive arts, re-enactments to recitals and so on. These are valuable confidence/character building opportunities and a means for pupils to flourish in alternative ways. The addition of a simple wooden stage to the school grounds offers children the chance to hone their performance skills in a more relaxed setting.

Definition

A pallet stage for public appearances is a great feature for school grounds. It can be a fixed or portable and it can be open or permanently covered. Surrounding grounds features such as trees, walls or posts could be used to attach a temporary stage covering.

Procedure

Identify a space close to the building to locate the stage as this will make it easier to set up speakers or a sound system using mains electricity. If you want a roof, then you may need to cement wooden posts at the four corners of the stage to which you can attach a sail or tarpaulin by way of small hooks in the posts.

If you have a concrete surface or similar, you can build a stage directly onto that. However, if the space is not level it can be aligned by digging out the upper layer of the soil, compressing the surface and backfilling it with fine gravel.

A simple stage can be constructed from around 9 pallets dependent upon the final size you require. Clean and treat the pallets with a wood preservative in advance. Position the pallets side by side to make a 3x3 square. You can screw the pallets to each other



to limit their movement. This gives you a simple platform of 1 pallet depth, but you might want to be more adventurous with layout!

Cover the layer of pallets with panels of marine plywood cut to size and treated with wood preservative. Screw these panels into place. You can then paint the stage with outdoor wood paint or even cover it with artificial grass.



Tips

- Audience seating could be created from log stumps, outdoor beanbags or similar.
- If the stage is against a school wall you could attach treated marine plywood to the back wall and paint it to give the stage a dramatic backdrop.

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