

**THE NINEVEH CHARITABLE TRUST  
PARK FARM  
FRITTENEDEN ROAD  
BIDDENDEN  
ASHFORD  
KENT TN27 8LG**

**Registered No. 256025**

**Tel: 01580 291531**

**Questionnaire**

Please note if you would prefer to write a report on your project with photos that is also acceptable.

**Tell us about yourselves (Charity Name, Donation Amount and Date of Donation)**

Chestnut Park Primary School

£2,500

6/2/25

**Tell us about the Funds**

- Has the project we helped to fund been completed? If so, how is it maintained?

The school has very little usable outdoor space and so the funding received has been invaluable in starting to create a greener and more biodiverse space on the roof for our children are able to access. Because of its limitations the planned roof garden has had to evolve. The roof had no seating and limited planters and so being able to fund larger scale planters with incorporated seating was fantastic. The restrictions with weight bearing capacity means that we have had to be incredibly selective about what products we can use and even where we could place them. We couldn't opt for traditional wooden picnic benches or planters and so had to spend considerable time sourcing appropriate alternatives that would be lighter, durable and combine the functions that we needed whilst taking into account the maintenance aspect. We decided on the products and after manufacturing delays received them at the end of the autumn term 2025. The garden is container based and so maintenance is done by our student gardening club with minimal maintenance by our school caretaker.

- If not completed yet, why not? Are plans in place to finalise the project?

The project underwent an entire redesign which put the planting of the larger structural plants back a little. We are planning a greenhouse structure this year which will be the final phase of the project. We hope it will extend the growing season, the variety of plants we can grow and the length of time students can spend. We will complete the larger planting this Spring which we hope will accommodate more bird and insect life. We are also risk assessing a self-contained pond either on the roof or at the front of the school to increase students access to study ecology and life cycles.

- Did the funds provided by us prove adequate, or was there an over- or under-spend?

The flexibility of the funding allowed us to be able to pivot from our original designs when we needed to. The amount funded was adequate to get the project started. The products we had to adopt unfortunately were more expensive and meant we had to really be selective about our priorities and stretch the budget as far as we could.

- How were any surplus funds used, or was further funding made available?

We did solicit further funding as the project evolved. This enabled students to plant up their allotment plots, incorporate bird feeders and use outdoor cushions whilst we waited on the larger project elements to be delivered.

### Tell us about the project

- Has the project been successful and well received by the beneficiaries?

The students love spending time on the roof garden. "Our roof garden feels like a little bit of nature on top of the city". Elisha, age 7 "When we plant seeds up here, it feels like we're helping the world. The garden is my favourite place" Alisha, age 8

We have predominantly used the space in the summer term for gardening club and in the autumn and summer term for small group work such as reading or science/art projects. We're now hoping to extend usage throughout the wetter months.

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Are you satisfied with the outcome, or, with hindsight, would some modifications have been appropriate?

We are a little disappointed not to have more larger plants in place at this stage but delays with deliveries have pushed back the planting window to Spring '26. A decision was made to have larger and deeper containers with a smaller number of impactful plants. Last year the focus was on utilising the rooftop's vegetable planters which are at ground level for students. We are now focused on deciding on the shrubs/small trees which will attract the most wildlife.

- Was funding for this project made available from any other sources?

We solicited further funding from the Bupa Foundation and the OVO foundation

### Feedback about us

- How did you find our own process of selection and payment?

Overall the process was very smooth and timely. Payment arrived promptly and the funding arrived in time for the school to further consult with our estates department over the Easter break which was really helpful.

- Have you considered providing us with an update on the activities for which our Trust provided the funding?

The garden, like all gardens is still a work in progress. Every time a new element is considered this has to be risk assessed and the go to approval from our Estates team, which takes much longer than it would if the garden was at ground level. It is however a very important space for our students to be in and so we would love to keep you up to date on developments.

- Would you welcome a visit by our Trustees?

We would welcome a visit by the trustees at any time but particularly in the summer term when our gardening club will be sowing seeds and planting up the allotment beds.

- Have you any other comments?

We'd really like to thank the trustees for making the funds for the roof garden available. It is an ongoing challenge to be able to create an ecologically rich space in a highly urban setting; but it is an important one. We have already seen the positive impact that it has had on our children's learning and interest in the natural world and can only see this growing further.

This questionnaire is part of our due diligence, obtaining feedback to help us, and we are grateful for your input – please return the questionnaire as soon as possible. Please email all questionnaires and/or reports to [sally@ninevehtrust.org.uk](mailto:sally@ninevehtrust.org.uk)

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