

Optimising Green Spaces in Specialist and Mainstream Primary Schools: The Green Schools Project Protocol

ACTRN12626000313336

Status	RECRUITING
Sponsor	Deakin University
Enrollment	2,500 participants

Plain Language Summary

The Green Schools Project is studying whether adding more plants, gardens, and natural elements to primary school environments — both indoors and outdoors — can improve children's wellbeing, their connection to nature, and their enjoyment of school. It also looks at whether greener schools make teachers and staff feel better about their work. Schools in the study are in lower socio-economic areas of Melbourne, where access to green space is often limited.

Researchers from Deakin University will work alongside students, teachers, and industry partners to co-design the greening interventions so they genuinely reflect what each school community needs. Surveys, activity monitors, interviews, and focus groups will be used to measure the effects before and after the greening happens, and to understand what makes green school programs succeed or fail in practice.

Eligible participants include students in Grades 3–6 (and younger children for activity monitoring), teaching and support staff, and parents at selected Melbourne government primary schools. Both mainstream and specialist schools (which support students with complex needs) are included. Schools must have low current levels of greenery and be located in areas of low socio-economic advantage.

Key Eligibility Criteria

Inclusion (18)

- Government mainstream or specialist primary schools in Melbourne
- Located in areas of low socio-economic advantage
- Low baseline levels of school greening
- School-level consent obtained
- Participant criteria:
... and 13 more (see full listing online)

Exclusion (2)

- Non-government schools
- Schools with high baseline levels of greening

Locations (1 total)

VIC, Australia