Learning without limits: children as ArtScapers influencing change in and around their school
Where we began in 2016......
Children as artists, archaeologists, planners, scientists, architects, builders.....as activists involved in their world
Before we began we asked the children what an artist looks like and where they work...
Looking differently
Being an ArtScaper means to look at something and make your own ideas. Then, just think of the idea you thought of before and mix it up so you can make something even bigger and newer. Then just design it.. then just find stuff that might be used in the future and use that to help you build it. Jared, 8

We always have to copy someone else’s idea and get our work to look like theirs. William T, 8

When you’re an ArtScaper you use your own idea and then show it to others. Alper, 8

Actually you show it to yourself too because it helps you to sort out what your own brain is telling you. Tellis, 8
Redesigning a site is comparable to redesigning yourself.

This is different - a joint thing, everybody’s experience is valued...children have learnt loads about themselves and working with friends but it hasn’t felt like school and teachers haven’t felt like it’s teaching.

It reminds me why I came into teaching in the first place.
We liked how there were ideas but we used our own...making something so large.....that today I folded the paper more than 7 times...making new friends.

We noticed how if you look at the structures at different angles it looks different .....you can make art with anything.... that what we do is right and not wrong.
‘Spirals Weeks’ and ‘Out and About’
A day in the woods: January INSET day

Reflections on the qualities of the day included:

- connections with others,
- calmness,
- time to be surprised….to settle and feel comfortable,
- slowing things down and not overplanning,
- invitation not instruction,
- feeling more awake and open now (not like our usual training days)
I’ve finally got control of my writing it’s like I’ve leashed a horse and have power over it. Year 5 child

It makes you feel like you’re all grown-up because you are deciding what to do for yourself. Year 6 child

I wish it was spirals week every week – actually in spirals week you learn more. Year 3 child
We’ve moved from thinking: “What are we going to do in our outdoor learning slot?” to “This lesson needs to happen outside! Teacher

For subjects I find difficult like science and maths I like having the space outside so I can think. I can walk and talk and use the things we find outside with my friend until we’ve worked out the answer. Nobody is looking over my shoulder to check, the pressure is less.

Florence, 11
We set our minds to a newt....one of our favourite ArtScaping days.