**Aims of the Project**

The redevelopment of the Sensory Garden area will be designed to achieve the following aims:

**Access**

* The current area will be fit for purpose with levelled surfaces.
* The current equipment will be replaced with items which are more accessible for pupils with physical and sensory needs.
* The new design will encourage movement to help promote independent mobility and confidence in physical skills (e.g. for independent standing, walking).
* The new design will provide a safe but challenging environment for pupils to develop skills with both electric and manual wheelchairs.
* The area will allow pupils, for whom independent exploration and investigation is often difficult, an exciting and engaging space to explore and develop their knowledge, skills and understanding.
* Increase social interaction by providing seating spaces, activity areas and shared investigation areas.
* Provide a flexible space that appeals to the wide age range of pupils at Chesnut Lodge.

**Education**

* A welcoming space for pupils to learn outside of the classroom.
* A safe space for pupils to develop independent investigation and enquiry skills.
* A space that will provide opportunities for cross-curricular learning, e.g. creative writing in English, observation and investigation skills in science, develop understanding of colour, shape, capacity, position and directional language etc. in maths, natural vs. human elements of area in geography and to increase the continuous play provision available to pupils.
* Healthy Eating – growing fruit and vegetables to be eaten by the students.
* An additional multi-sensory environment for pupils with more complex learning needs.
* To promote the nurture principles: Providing a safe base for development, developing self wellbeing, providing opportunity for communication.

**Recreation**

* A fun, inviting area for pupils to play and socialise.
* A design that encourages interaction between groups of pupils.
* A design with focused activity areas to support pupils who struggle to play and socialise independently.
* A design that is appealing to, and based on the ideas of, our wide range of ages and needs.
* A multi-purpose space that has the scope to be utilised by parents, carers and the local community.