

## A Smell Map of Our School

An activity of “Social media is turning places into selfie hotspots”

Read “Social Media is turning places into selfie hotspots” and “Tee and Boba” (pages 16 & 28, *What's Up* October 2025). They have a common theme — capturing precious memories. Very often, smells are associated with memories of the places we have been. Explore this idea by creating a “smellscape” of your school!

1. Watch this video to see how a researcher creates smellscape of various cities around the world.

### This City in England Smells of Yeast & Hot Metal | Tour Canterbury by Smell

➤ <https://youtu.be/Y1a9rJHe0NE?si=qlkPi4u3zCAwzzg6>

(Atlas Obscura, 15 October 2019)

*What do you think about these visual smellscape that Kate McLean creates?*

2. In small groups, go around your school to identify smells. What memories do you associate them with? Record your individual findings in the table below. Use different colours to represent the mood of each memory. For example:

 Red: Warmth, comfort, friendship	 Purple: Bittersweet, mixed feelings,
 Yellow: Excitement, fun, adventure	 Green: Hopeful, fresh, renewed
 Blue: Peaceful, calm, relaxed	 Orange: Nostalgia, familiarity,
 Grey: Dullness, boredom, tiredness	 Black: Mystery, fear, anxiety

Location	Smell	Memory Description	How it makes me feel	Colour
<i>e.g. Library</i>	<i>Old books</i>	<i>Quiet afternoons studying with my friends</i>	<i>Calm</i>	<i>blue</i> 

3. On a sheet of flipchart paper, draw a simple outline of your school (no need to be exact). Create a smell map of your school by placing coloured dots on the map where you found each smell. Beside each dot, write:
- What the smell is of (e.g. fried noodles)
  - A short memory caption (e.g. recess, laughter with friends)
  - Its location in your school (e.g. library, canteen, and so on).
- Finally, include your Colour Key (Legend) in a corner.
4. Display your Smell Maps in class walk around and look at the other groups' maps.

4a) *Which colour appears most often? Why?*

4b) *Which smell stood out to you the most? What made it memorable?*

4c) *Did you discover any smells you had never noticed before? Describe them.*

4d) *Which smells triggered the most memories for you?*

4e) *If you could bottle one school smell forever, what smell would it be? And, why?*

*If my school had a signature scent, it would be of \_\_\_\_\_.*

Decorate and label this bottle of your school's signature scent. →

