



Ascot Vale West Primary School students Roy, Audrey, Houd, Julia and Olivia enjoy the new buddy bench. *Picture: George Salpigidis*

## Bench best for buddies

Sometimes all it takes is a bench to make everything better.

And that's exactly what Ascot Vale West Primary School has done by installing a friendship bench in their new sensory garden.

The garden and bench aim to provide a quiet, sensory space where students can reflect or make a new friend if they feel lonely.

The school's primary welfare officer Kristy Holmes said the garden was created to have a calming effect.

The space was partially funded by the Flemington Kensington Rotary Club, whose members helped to build the new bench and garden, including eco-friendly self-watering planters.