

Grendon Garden

H Beedon, L Fox and J Gwinnett and E Ingram are responsible for the management of the Grendon Garden.

Gardening in the school setting enables pupils to develop a mastery of the curriculum (particularly the Science curriculum) and enhance their understanding of the natural world. Children learn about healthy food choices, engage in physical activity and develop teamwork skills.

Grendon benefits from having an area dedicated to gardening. Trees and hedges surround a wildlife pond giving opportunities to investigate pond life, minibeasts and to identify native trees and plants. Raised beds allow children to grow a selection of herbs, flowers and vegetables providing an insight into food provenance and seasonality.

The school has reached level 5 (the highest level) in the RHS Campaign for School Gardens.

Children in Year Two and Year Four work in small groups in the garden on a weekly class rotation basis. Due to the unpredictable nature of the British weather, a variety of lessons have been planned for both indoors and outdoors.

Outdoors, children work scientifically following subject content from the national curriculum. Additionally children work physically digging raised beds, weeding and planting. Children taste crops and grow flowers for their beauty and to benefit local wildlife.

Indoors, children learn the theory of food chains, plant and wildlife identification, plant growth and the seasons. This theory is backed up by first-hand experiences outside. Whenever possible, children are encouraged to lead their learning and observations or enquiries will be developed.

At the end of the summer term, children hold an open garden. Parents are invited to look at the garden and the work that has been completed. Children participate in an end of year picnic tasting some foods they have grown. Surplus vegetables and plants are sold to develop enterprise skills and to enable the gardening project to be self-funding.

Across the year, whole school gardening events and challenges are held for example flower displays in recycled containers or growing potatoes in buckets. Any classes who wish to access the garden for observation or practical gardening to meet areas of the curriculum are welcomed.

Continuous class projects

Gardening Journal (Y4): Children produce a scrapbook journal documenting their year in the garden. This includes photographs and art work.

Observation Board (Y2+Y4): Children record on a display the plants, insects or wildlife spotted in the garden. Weather conditions, season and month are considered.

Nature Table (Y2+Y4): Items of interest found outside are displayed on a nature table.