

Charlton Manor Primary School

GROWING IDEAS



History

When Mr Baker became head teacher 12 years ago, the current garden was a derelict out-of-bounds site. He organized volunteers to clear the site and hired a professional company to design the garden with substantial input from students, which led to the garden as it is now, with lots of growing space, a pond area, and space for chickens and bees.



Next steps

The school is currently setting up and developing links with other gardening sites. A community garden at Woodlands Farm is now available to children from the school and another site is also under development.



Learning and teaching

The garden is an outdoor resource that can be used by teachers for any and all lessons. It is used to provide inspiration for art and writing, as a place for scientific experiments, and for learning mathematical ideas of quantity, averages, volumes and more. Gardening and beekeeping clubs after school also teach more direct gardening skills and knowledge.

Biggest challenge

Finding the time for the maintenance of the garden as well as all the activities and finding the space to grow all of the plants.

Biggest success

Becoming well known over time as a school with an active and positive focus on healthy living.

Changes in the last 10 years

The site and layout of the garden has not changed but its management has. For the last four and a half years it has been run by full time gardener, Nick, which has enabled the use of the garden to be maximized, with many more plants, chickens and bees being introduced.



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