

Chisenhale Primary School

GROWING IDEAS



History

In 2010, Cassie Liversidge began the development of the then underused school garden. With the help of parent volunteers, the garden was cleared of abandoned furniture and the first seeds were planted. More raised beds were also added to the school roof, again requiring parent and student help to carry tonnes of soil up many flights of stairs. Today the garden forms an integral part of life at Chisenhale.



Next steps

What was originally a bike shed is now in the final stages of being converted into an outdoor classroom. The aim going forward is to make the most out of this space, especially in winter.



Learning and teaching

The garden is used in inventive ways across the curriculum. 'Lessons in loaf' is run every year where children make their own bread from scratch. Home grown flax is used to make clothes and dyed using plants grown in the garden, making a great history lesson. The tea garden provides resource for geography and DT lessons as children learn about tea growing and make their own tea bags.

Biggest challenge

Allowing children to have freedom in the garden while maintaining a tidy and ordered garden with all the plants labelled.

Biggest success

Effectively integrating the garden into life at Chisenhale that it is not just one or two projects but really just part of the school.

Changes in the last 10 years

The changes to school dinners are one of Chisenhale's proudest achievements. The chef, council food providers and parents worked together to improve school meal provision to include more local and organic produce, as well as food from the garden. The changes made at Chisenhale have had an effect on the way the borough approaches school food provision, with similar changes being implemented in other schools.



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