

Grey Court School

GROWING IDEAS



Biggest challenge

Funding is always a big challenge, alongside finding enough lunchtime helpers to enable allotment club to run smoothly.



History

The school's original allotment, built in 2006, was lost in 2013 to create room for a new Sixth Form block. Gardening at the school then took place wherever space could be found, from the flower beds lining the driveway to pots here and there. In February, a new allotment was finally set up. The garden is run in partnership with local community group, Ham United, with local residents tending the allotment over weekends and school holidays.

Biggest success

Raising £12,000 through the Tesco bag campaign and being able to build the new allotment.

Learning and teaching

The garden is used for teaching across the curriculum. For example, children are taught where food comes from and the miles food from across the world travels in comparison to growing your own as part of Geography. Year 2 students also do a healthy eating project using the garden. The introduction of chickens has enabled teaching of the lifecycle and care for living things in reception.



Changes in the last 10 years

The biggest change has been the change in site. The new site is smaller and no longer has running water. However, it is a more sophisticated allotment, with a proper shed and features such as a fruit cage. Another recent change is the involvement of students from Strathmore School, the special needs school on the site of Grey Court, in caring for the allotment.



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