

# Phoenix School

## GROWING IDEAS



### History

The school's garden was landscaped and set up in 2007, meaning that its 10th birthday coincides with School Food Matters this year. The garden was set up to be used by all children at Phoenix as a hands on subject to learn the skills to grow plants as well as to use the garden for events such as the Environment Fortnight Festival.



### Next steps

To continue manage the space as it has been so far whilst the school evolves to a second site as an academy.



### Learning and teaching

All pupils from infants through to post 19 receive a horticulture lesson each week. Jacqueline runs classes for KS1 and KS2, focusing on crafts based around horticulture such as leaf printing and bark rubbing, while John runs classes for KS3 and above, delivering the more physical aspects of growing and maintenance. These classes link to what is taught on the science and food technology curriculums.

### Biggest challenge

Producing crops under the pressures of the sensory nature of autism spectrum disorder, and the timing of school terms.

### Biggest success

Continuing to involve the whole school in growing food and plants despite ever increasing numbers.

### Changes in the last 10 years

While the management, size and use of garden have remained mostly the same, the needs of the students have changed dramatically as the school has moved from educating students with moderate learning difficulties to students with autism spectrum disorder and the number of pupils has simultaneously increased from around 160 to 225 in this time.



**SCHOOL  
FOOD  
MATTERS**

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