

# St Stephen's Primary

## GROWING IDEAS



### History

The gardening club was started about 12 years ago without any funding, using everything that could be found for gardening. Nowadays the gardening club is run out of two raised beds and a number of pots along the edge of the playground.



### Biggest success

Involving a high percentage of students every year so that children leave the school with an active practical knowledge of growing their own food.



### Biggest challenge

Engaging the whole school community of staff and parents so that everyone feels gardening is important and takes responsibility.

### Learning and teaching

The garden is not currently used regularly for timetabled lessons but the gardening club, which is open to all children, plays an important pastoral and teaching role. Children of all ages with all educational needs can take part in fun activities together. They learn all kinds of horticultural skills as well as science, numeracy and other topics, but all while being presented as fun.



### Changes in the last 10 years

While there have been numerous changes to the location of gardening in the school, these have all brought their own advantages and disadvantages. The 3x3m plot was excellent for wildlife learning whereas the raised bed area had advantages when it came to learning and teaching. What has remained constant throughout is the ability to adapt to these changes and provided gardening opportunities for all.



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