

# St Richard's CE Primary

## GROWING IDEAS



### History

Seven years ago the garden area was still an empty field with nothing growing apart from some shrubs and trees. Before getting involved with School Food Matters, the school only had two raised beds for growing. School Food Matters inspired the school to get growing and things developed quickly. This encouraged a few members of staff to work on fundraising and to try to get parents on board.



### Next steps

The next challenge will be getting the whole school community involved in the gardening. By including parents, the project will become more sustainable.

### Learning and teaching

The garden was set up in order to teach children how to grow fruit and vegetables by actually doing it, rather than reading about it in a book. Sarah the gardener leads the classes and also maintains the garden. The garden is used for science lessons and the school has a busy gardening club.

### Biggest challenge

Finding funding for a gardener is tricky but worth the effort to ensure that the project keeps going and that the garden is cared for during the holidays.

### Biggest success

Growing food became a real part of school life at St Richards Primary. Staff members are more comfortable with gardening and the idea of getting their hands dirty.

### Changes in the last 10 years

A simple tap in the garden has made a huge difference, as the children no longer have to run from one side of the school to the other to fill watering cans. When the project started there were only two raised beds and now there are six of them and some have been made accessible for wheelchairs so that all the children can be gardeners!



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**GROWING IDEAS**

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