

Phoenix Primary & Secondary School

GROWING IDEAS



Both the Head Teacher and Land-based Activities Co-ordinator recognised horticulture would be key as the school moved from working with moderate learning difficulties to a specialist centre for children and young people with autism. The vegetable garden was developed in 2007 followed by the Zen garden in 2010 and chicken area in 2011. The plot now covers around 2 acres with indoor classrooms and many raised beds.

Who Does The Gardening?

All 120 students engage in seed sowing and potting, with planting, weeding and harvesting beginning in KS3. By KS4 students will be spending a whole day in the garden.



Eating & Cooking

Herbs and veg are used in Food Tech. Some crops are sold to staff but students very much enjoy eating direct from the garden. Sometimes they are given a tortilla wrap and sent to fill it from the garden.

National Curriculum

Science and Food Tech but food growing is an integral part of the curriculum and classes take place every day.

Funding

The school funds the project through its budget and development plan but is always looking for more funding.

Top Tip

Keep on top of the weeds.

Successes

Although Phoenix has won Tower Hamlets in Bloom twice and London in Bloom twice, the greatest success of the project is seeing the growth in pupils' confidence and ability.

Challenges

The biggest challenge this year has been lack of sunshine, which means lack of growth.

Whatever next

There are dreams of creating a herb garden, a larger growing space and a stag beetle enclosure.



What we Grow

Garlic	Beans
Onions	Tomatoes
Chard	Cucumber
Salad crops	Courgette
Broad beans	Strawberries
Salad potatoes	



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