

Garden & Grow

Purpose of study

Garden & Grow is a new curriculum offer which launched in September 2024. It provides practical, outdoor learning for selected students with an EHCP. It aims to support the following SEN areas of need: 'Sensory & Physical' and 'Social, Emotional and Mental Health'.

Garden & Grow teaches students about wildlife and animal habitats in the common British Garden. Students will be taught competent gardening skills and tier-3 vocabulary in horticulture. It prepares students for post-16 courses and jobs in this field.

Through Garden & Grow, students engage with nature to combat their anxieties and promote sensory integration. Garden & Grow provides students with a low-demand environment to increase their self-esteem and develop their interpersonal skills through the nurturing of plants.

Students work towards AQA Unit Awards building a portfolio of certificates which may be used to support post-16 applications.

Curriculum plan

The AQA Unit Awards covered in Year 1 of the programme:

- Introduction to gardening
- Building a bird box and identifying birds
- Making an insect home
- Plants and gardening with support
- Vegetable growing
- Participating in a garden visit
- Cooking with produce from the allotment with support

The AQA Unit Awards covered in Year 2 of the programme:

- Introduction to growing plants and vegetables (unit 1)
- Introduction to growing plants and vegetables (unit 2)
- Designing and making a bird feeder
- Cooking with produce from the allotment with support
- Participating in a garden visit
- Planning and taking part in a garden party

The AQA Unit Awards covered in Year 3 of the programme:

- Using garden waste to make compost
- School gardening project
- Creating items for a sensory garden area
- School gardening in the summer term
- Cooking with produce from the allotment with support
- Participating in a garden visit