

Food Growing In Leicester

A celebration of local community growing projects

Rolleston School Garden



"They're so delicious"

(Y5 about yellow raspberries)

The original garden at Rolleston Primary School was first established several years ago. The gardening club grew in popularity and the decision was taken to expand. A new plot was developed in 2014.

The school has used the plot in various ways including different classes taking ownership of vegetable beds, nurture group visiting to help sow, grow, pick and eat, open plot during the summer holidays, volunteer days etc. The gardening club, now called R Green Gang, takes place twice a week after school. The garden greatly benefits from having an eager (amateur gardener) teaching assistant who is dedicated to outdoor learning.

The Community Food Growing Support Program has worked with the school over the last three years. Sarah, the schools outdoor learning teaching assistant has attended a considerable amount of training as part of the program. She is a great example of upskilling a person via the range of support available. She has attended skill sessions and has received visits to the plot at the school to answer specific queries as a package of bespoke support. This has benefited school pupils, parents and three other community projects in the area.

2017

In 2017 the school grew 3 beds of potatoes, 3 beds of different bean varieties, 3 beds of carrots and onions and 2 beds of cabbages. The potatoes, carrots, onions and beans did really well and were shared with the school kitchen and summer volunteer families. The cabbages ended up being caterpillar food again. The school entered the 'MealBarrow' competition which was displayed at the Gardeners World show in June 2017.

The school also participated in the Food for Life/ Eco School celebration to showcase their great work. They were awarded the Bronze award in the Grow Your Own Grub competition. They also won 2 sunflower competitions! The gardens finally had a visit from a bee swarm that rested on R plot before moving on.

Engagement with the community

The school has had family days at open plot. Playdays and playgroups have been involved over the summer time. The school entered the Blooming Eyres Monsell Horticultural show and they have offered their surplus produce in the summer to local lunch clubs. They have hosted National Citizens Service teams, had visits from Food for Life, staff from Leicester schools and beyond including a visit from Egyptian educators!



"The first time he's ever eaten all his potatoes"

(Parent about F1 child)

