

Grow Your Grub Competition 2021

How will the competition work?

As last year, we have expanded the competition to all schools. Schools participate by creating a 'mealbarrow', so even if you don't have a designated growing area you can still enter. The competition is open to any school and can be done with an individual class or gardening club.

Schools are asked to attend a virtual training session on **Thursday 11 March 2021** 4.00-5.30pm, recording will be available if you are unable to attend.

We'll be offering one to one virtual support and online training during March-May 2021.

The competition consists of two parts:

The Mealbarrow

Stage 1: Your school needs to produce a menu for a three-course meal. The choice of dishes can be as diverse as you like and include all food groups (e.g. fish, meat etc) as well as fruit and vegetables. We would recommend using the [Eatwell Guide](#) to help plan your menu. The menu will be judged on:

- Presentation,
- Nutritional value
- Creativity and appeal

Completed menus will need to be sent to GrowYourOwnGrub@leicester.gov.uk by **Wednesday 19 May 2021** as judging will take place on **Thursday 20 May 2021**. These can be hand-written and scanned or typed. A template will be provided and example of menus can be found on the [schools extranet](#).

Stage 2: The school will be expected to grow a minimum of 5 items that have been included in their menu in their wheelbarrow (*for schools that have previously participated you will need to reuse the wheelbarrow, for new schools upcycle an old one – ask around or get in touch if you are struggling*). These can be vegetables, salad crops, fruits, herbs or cereals. All of the crops should be grown within the mealbarrow. However, we also encourage schools to grow more of the same crops or different crops in their own 'extended' growing area (if available). You will need to source compost (approx. 120 litres) but we can provide a variety of seeds.

During the week 7-11 June 2021, the judges will arrange either a visit or virtual visit (creating a video clip) to assess the mealbarrow and growing area against the following criteria:

- The condition of the crop
- The use of environmentally friendly growing methods
- Innovation
- Presentation of the mealbarrow

As crops are harvested at different times, the judges will be taking this into consideration and will be assessing the condition of the plants at the time of judging.

The school is not expected to cook the meal as part of the competition.

Provisionally, schools are then invited to bring their wheelbarrow to the event venue on **Friday 2 July 2021 (between 12noon and 4pm)** or between 11-12noon on **Saturday 3 July 2021** to showcase their produce on the open day of **Saturday 3 July 2021** (barrows between 12-3pm). We

are able to support schools to apply for financial support which would include a company collecting and returning the wheelbarrow (information will be provided at the training in March 2021).

If you are unable to bring the wheelbarrow, we can accept a photo and description which will be displayed along with the physical mealbarrows – however we'd love to see the mealbarrow.

The results of the menu and wheelbarrow visit will be combined to generate half of the score. The other half will be obtained from the showcase event or virtual event. The general public will be invited to vote on their favourite. We're encouraging you to promote to school family and friends to come along and support you! Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third.

The winning school overall will host a fantastic celebration assembly (face to face or virtual). This will take place early in the new academic year.

Extended growing area

Schools will also independently receive bronze, silver and gold for the quality of their growing area. Winners will be announced before the end of term and awards presented in the new academic year. The judges will visit the school and assess the growing area against the following criteria:

- The condition of the crop in both
- The use of environmentally friendly growing methods including composting
- Innovation
- Presentation of the site and wheelbarrow
- How the garden/growing area has been integrated into the school curriculum and actively engaging parents and/or the wider community in growing and cooking activities

The deadline for entries is **Friday 26 February 2021** and will be filled on a first come basis. Book your school's place via this [eForm](#) as soon as possible to confirm. Any questions please email GrowYourOwnGrub@Leicester.gov.uk

All dates are subject to change

