

# Bedelsford School

## GROWING IDEAS



**Commitment level:**



### Equipment List

- Special 'waterers'
- Elevated raised beds
- Hand tools
- Shed
- Drip feed watering system



### Project Timeline

**2005**

Sensory Garden established

**2006**

Science-led allotment built

**2013**

New Build will include new growing spaces



## PROJECTS

**The Sensory Garden:** Deputy Head, Julie Wrathall, understands that gardens are a wonderful learning resource for children with physical difficulties. Over 55% of children at Bedelsford have Cerebral Palsy and gardening gives them visual and sensory stimulation that the children cannot access through text book learning. The sensory garden mixes the scents and textures of flowers and herbs with hand activated sounds linked to sculptures of birds and animals. Elevated raised beds allow wheelchairs to be tucked in beneath, giving the children chance to really get their hands dirty.

**The Green Class Allotment:** Right outside the Green Class, the children can get to their own veg garden where they can smell, taste and help to water the plants. Special 'waterers' have been adapted from old drinks bottles to allow the children to give the plants a good soak.

## Commitment level



Growing at Bedelsford was led by the Science Department but all classes have access and teachers help maintain the gardens. The young children enjoy the sensory benefits of gardening, whilst the secondary school children can enjoy extended learning through Enterprise.





## Eating & cooking



Children enjoy eating the bumper crops of tomatoes at break.

Produce is used in school meals by the school's in-house cook.

KS4 children made jam from the strawberries which were sold as an Enterprise project

## National curriculum



**Primary:** PSHE and Science

**Secondary:** Science and Enterprise, OCR Life and Living

## Successes



Staff too have benefited by being introduced to gardening. Many have learnt new skills and have enjoyed access to fresh fruit and veg.

The challenge of watering has been met with an automated drip feed system.

## Funding



Growing projects have been paid for by donations to the school fund.

## Whatever next?



The school hopes for a greenhouse to extend their food growing activities.



## What we grow



- Potatoes
- Carrots
- Onions
- Herbs
- Beetroot
- Beans
- Strawberries
- Fruit trees

## Top Tip

**Always sow veg first into seed trays then put into a greenhouse or on a windowsill until the seedlings are big enough to plant out.**



**SCHOOL  
FOOD  
MATTERS**

## GROWING IDEAS

[www.schoolfoodmatters.com](http://www.schoolfoodmatters.com)  
[www.kingston.gov.uk/growing\\_ideas](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/growing_ideas)

