

Rivelin School Gardening



Welcome to our school's newest development.

At Rivelin, we want our children to have the best learning outcomes. To do this, we need to make sure that we develop our children inside and outside of the classroom. To make sure that our curriculum is enriched, we have exciting plans to create an outdoor space where children can experience the outdoors first hand.

Our goals are:

- . To connect pupils to the outside environment and teach them how to nurture this.
- . To provide cross curricular links in our teaching that can be done with growing and connecting with wildlife.
- . To provide a calm space for children and staff to go to.
- . To connect with the local community, making relationships where ideas and expertise can be shared.
- . To make our pupils aware of the current climate issues and teach them how we can help tackle these.

Our local Community:

The local community is so important. As part of our garden development, we reached out to numerous organisations to help guide us in creating an outdoor space. In doing this, the WBAS (Walkley Bank Allotment Society) came and had a chat with us sharing their expertise and guidance. We talked about numerous areas of the garden and how the school could connect with them to help provide the children with more outdoor learning and exposure to the outdoors.

The WBAS recently hosted a competition to help design a new logo for the society. Enthusiastically, the year 4 children of Rivelin took to the challenge. Amazingly two of the year 4 children's designs were chosen. This completion was a great opportunity for the school and local community to come together and work in unison.

We look forward to working with the WBAS in the future and thank them for their help and advice so far.

Our Garden story

2 years ago, it was decided that some unused space next to the school (old girls' entrance) would be used as an outdoor learning space. Mr Smith was given the job of leading the project and the garden development has been fantastic.



Liaising with lots of outside agencies and volunteers the garden is continuing to take shape with plans to continue expanding in the next year.

The garden is intended to be a space for everyone in school and to help enrich and support our curriculum. It is also a space that is intended to help our local wildlife and environment.



Outside agencies and companies worked with so far:

Langland's garden centre - Donated garden tools for the children to help clearing.

WBAS (Walkley bank allotment society) - Helped give advice and donated plants.

Timbre specialists Sheffield- Donated a large bundle of Timbre to us to build planters and raised beds.

Bug life UK- A charity company came in and delivered a workshop on pollinators and provided us with a bee garden.

Heeley City Farm (ongoing) - Donated many plants for us to grow and are helping us come up with ideas to develop our garden further.

Mr Crabb (parent /landscape gardener) - has helped us with the garden massively over the past few years. He has built us raised beds and remove unwanted material from the garden.

COOP (Ongoing)- Have made us a funded project to help us develop further. We received

RHS School gardening.

As a school we have used the RHS school gardening framework to make sure our garden is both impactful and meaningful.

Evidence submitted:

We are planet-friendly gardeners. Please explain your approach in up to 600 characters (approx. 100 words)

Rivelin prides ourselves on trying to help the environment. A huge part of our garden is dedicated to helping and promoting wildlife. We have a range of pollinator friendly plants and asked an expert to come and do a workshop with a large group of our pupils. We now have a range of flowering perennials, herbs and wild flower mix that are perfect for our garden visitors. We recycle our organic waste by using compost bins making sure that any unwanted litter is also disposed of correctly. The school is making plans to extend our wildlife area and investigate what plants would promote wild birds

We try our best to keep our plants healthy. Please explain your approach in up to 600 characters (approx. 100 words)

The gardening club have been learning key gardening skills over the summer terms. We discussed and explored why a pollinator garden needed to be free from some weeds, as these could block sunlight and harm existing plants. The children then cleaned the compost picking out any litter or unwanted items. The children then got to contribute to compost bins by putting any biodegradable waste in the bins. We talked about how this compost would be useful and add nutrients back into the soil. We also had the opportunity to use trellis this summer as we discussed how some plants need climbing support

We grow and can name a range of plants. Please explain your approach in up to 600 characters (approx. 100 words)

At Rivelin, the gardening club have begun to grow a wide variety of plants. We have an area dedicated to pollinators growing a wide range of perennials and flowering bulbs. We have 4 raised beds in our garden which this year have grown kale, cabbage and peas. The children have also been tending and caring for existing plants in the garden including grapes, rhubarb and small fruit trees. The year 1s in school begin to grow beans from their story in English and our EYFS children plant potatoes that they later make into chips understanding where food comes from.

We use gardening to support our wellbeing. Please explain your approach in up to 600 characters (approx. 100 words)

Wellbeing is a big part of our school gardens purpose. A picnic bench was donated by a local company. This allows staff to have an outdoor area to eat their lunch and be outside. A school gardening club is currently being set up to allow children access to the outdoors and unwind after a day at school. Outdoor sessions have already been held in KS1 allowing children to be outdoors and supporting all pupils in activities accessible to all. Plans have been created for all children to have access to the school garden so that they can access a quiet space during lunch and playtimes.

We are learning new gardening skills. Please explain your approach in up to 600 characters (approx. 100 words)

Our KS1 and EYS team have been role models in educating our pupils about growing and the outdoors. KS1 children have been taught about the process of our food - they have been taught how to sow seeds, care for the plants and how to harvest crops

which were then turned into food to eat. . Children and parents have been coming into school working with us to weed and clear green space. The children here were shown what to clear and how to do it they were hearing terms such as raking, digging and weeding. .Children in EYFS have been discussing pollinators and bee friendly plant choices.

We all contribute to our gardening plans. Please explain your approach in up to 600 characters (approx. 100 words)

Children have been involved in every process of the creation of our schools' green spaces. A whole school assembly was held where the garden lead and the headteacher explained that we needed the children's help. Each class in school wrote their ideas for the school garden on a class document this was then shared with the garden lead. . An Eco warriors committee has now been set up where leaders will make decisions about the garden. . Parents have been into school and met with garden lead and headteacher and contributed their ideas to the project.

Using the box provided, tell us about your future gardening plans in up to 500 characters (approx. 80 words)

We have started clearing a large space adjacent to our school. After speaking with staff, children and the local community we want our garden to have many focuses including wildlife, SEND support and providing a space that all children will have access to. I (garden lead) have spoken to numerous parent volunteers who have offered to help us going further. A local allotment society also have a planned visit to the garden to give their opinions and advice on how we can get our garden flourishing.



Next steps for level 4 and 5

Level 4 -

To achieve Level 4, you need to demonstrate the following:

- Our gardening supports **wildlife**
- We use gardening to support the **curriculum**
- We **share our plants or seeds** with others

Level 5

To achieve Level 5, your school needs to demonstrate the following:

- We are gardening **with our community** (This involves hands-on gardening where children and young people are gardening with five or more people who are not current pupils or staff at your school.)
- We garden in **every season**
- Our gardening has a **future**

Garden plans 24/25

