



## Horticulture

### Rational

At Pens Meadow we aim to build our pupils awareness that horticulture is a life skill which can impact on everyday life as a method of relaxation and aiding mental health and well-being. Horticulture can provide skills for hobbies as well as being used to provide food and as a vehicle of enterprise. Beginning in the EYFS we build upon the pupil's natural curiosity about the world around them. Using their senses pupils explore the seasons, weather, plants, and soils that exist within the garden. This begins to develop schemas which are developed as pupils move through school during scientific learning and focused horticulture lessons.

Our Horticulture curriculum is a conceptualised curriculum based upon up-to-date research about how children learn as well as how to meet the ranging needs of learners with complex difficulties. It reflects the views of all school stakeholders at Pens Meadow School. Knowledge and skills have been carefully broken down into meaningful components and carefully sequenced to enable pupils to revisit and review previous learning and build upon their developing understanding.

Curriculum coverage has been planned to ensure that pupils develop their knowledge, skills and understanding key stage four. At key stage five pupils are given the opportunity to continue their horticulture study through an OCR in life and living skills focusing on using horticulture as an enterprise opportunity. All key stage 5 pupils also have opportunities to use their horticulture skills through work related learning either working at Nineveh farm, Baggeridge or our allotment at Hawbush allotments.

Our cyclic approach, to horticulture curriculum coverage, ensures that all pupils have opportunities to develop their knowledge progressively as they move through school, whilst revisiting key content ensuring learning is embedded.

Our horticulture progression document enables learning to be pitched at individual pupil's zone of challenge in line with their development level enabling the planning of accurate end points and targeted progress.

## Intent

At Pens Meadow School we aim for our pupils to develop a natural curiosity and an understanding of the world around them whilst preparing them for life beyond school. We believe that horticulture provides an important basis for pupils to develop their skills of independence and build a positive attitude towards an interesting and enjoyable subject. Pupils learn how to grow plants and vegetables and develop an understanding of how they grow and which parts they can eat. They learn the physical benefits of gardening through physical work and routines which are defined by the seasons, the importance of interactions between animals and plants especially for pollination and the importance of following health and safety protocols for tool use and maintenance.

We ensure that our pupils are provided with rich, high-quality learning that aims to:

- Enable pupil to communicate their understanding and interest in horticulture through carefully adapted experiences supported by a total communication environment.
- Learn the benefits of gardening through physical work and routines determined by the season.
- Explicitly teach horticulture vocabulary alongside new knowledge for example plant parts and tools.
- Understand basic horticulture science e.g. how and why plants die or survive and thrive.
- Learn to use, maintain and store personal protective equipment (PPE) correctly.
- Learn to use, maintain and store a variety of tools.
- Taste the fruits of their labours by growing, maintaining and then harvesting fruit and vegetables to use in food technology.
- Develop an understanding of what people believe and the differences this makes to the way they live.
- Express their own ideas, ask simple questions, reflect on their own beliefs and respond to what they discover.

