Gardening

Gardening Statement

Our Curriculum Intent

At Great Arley, we are committed to providing our students with meaningful opportunities to engage in gardening activities, deepen their understanding of the natural environment, and express their creativity. We believe that working outdoors offers significant benefits for both physical health and mental wellbeing, and it's important that students gain a solid understanding of how plants grow and thrive.
Through a range of outdoor experiences tailored to all age groups, students will:

- **Learn and apply essential gardening skills and techniques.**
- **Develop awareness of how gardening supports a healthier lifestyle and positively impacts mental health and wellbeing.**
- **Grow their own food and learn how to prepare produce as part of a balanced, healthy diet.**
- **Understand sustainable gardening practices and their positive effects on the environment.**
- **Build motivation, resilience, and teamwork skills through collaborative gardening projects.**
- **Gain knowledge of plant growth requirements and the wildlife commonly found in gardens.**
- **Experience a sense of pride and achievement by actively improving the school's garden areas.**

Curriculum Overview

The EYFS students experience aspects of gardening within *The Outdoor School* semi-formal Equals Curriculum.
The students in Key stages 1 and 2 experience aspects of gardening through *The Outdoor Schooling* section of the formal Equals Curriculum.
Gardening lessons are timetabled for Key Stage 3 students, incorporating a mix of hands-on outdoor activities, creative projects, and research tasks. These lessons include both indoor and outdoor components, allowing students to explore gardening in a variety of ways. Students also contribute directly to enhancing the school's outdoor spaces.
Our participation in **Young Wyre in Bloom**, an annual local competition judged each June, provides students with an exciting goal and recognition for their efforts.

In Key Stage 4, students can choose to study gardening and follow the *ASDAN Gardening Short Course.*
We want to give the students the opportunity to develop an interest in gardening that may benefit therapeutically later in life. We want them to understand that it is a way to be physically active and mentally healthy. They will leave Great Arley with an understanding of how to maintain and develop their own garden. We hope that experiencing our own gardening curriculum will encourage them to consider possible further study and/or a career route in gardening and the outdoors.

Skills and Knowledge Students Develop

We aim to inspire a lifelong interest in gardening that supports physical activity and mental health well beyond their school years. By the time they leave Great Arley, students will have the knowledge and confidence to maintain and nurture their own gardens. We hope that this rich gardening curriculum will encourage some to pursue further study or careers in horticulture, environmental sciences, or other outdoor-related roles.

Careers and Cross-Curricular Connections

We explore the essential skills needed by individuals working in gardens and outdoor environments. Students gain insight into the diverse career paths associated with horticulture and landscaping. We also examine local college courses and apprenticeship opportunities that support their development in this field. Cross-curricular links are identified and incorporated; science, food technology and art being the main subjects.