



Horticulture

Pupils from Key Stage 3 have the opportunity to undertake ASDAN qualifications in Horticulture and Gardening which consist of practical modules in traditional gardening and horticulture skills such as digging and seed sowing as well as modules focusing on allotment growing and construction in the garden.

Intent

At Hope House School we aim to teach horticulture as a life skill as well as part of a qualification. Horticulture sessions will support pupils in building confidence, independence and initiative within a practical environment. All pupils are encouraged to develop resilience, appreciate nature the different Seasons and handling soil and plants with the view that this is beneficial to mental health. We intend that horticulture will provide a rich opportunity for outdoor learning that will enable pupils to gain an understanding of various plants and shrubs as well as learning about land maintenance and conservation. We aim to promote positive attitudes to horticulture as an interesting and enjoyable subject.

Implementation

Horticulture sessions are mainly practical with some theoretical for pupils working towards achieving a qualification. Sessions are held within the school grounds, allotment and purpose-built greenhouse. Pupils are encouraged to practice horticultural tasks independently and experience a multi-sensory approach to

horticulture, smelling and tasting plants where appropriate. We aim to develop skills in planting, seed sowing, cultivating, basic floristry, health and safety along with tool use and maintenance, pruning and the importance of interaction between plants and animals especially pollinators. The curriculum provides opportunities for pupils to evaluate their own work, reflect on what they have learnt or done well and make suggestions for improvement. Pupils are encouraged to form opinions on the social, moral, spiritual and cultural aspects of horticulture and wherever possible content is linked to British Values.

Impact

Pupils will experience a practical approach to horticulture, enabling them to discover a wide range of horticulture equipment and ideas. They will have the opportunity to become more confident and competent to independently perform basic horticulture tasks. Such tasks will develop fine and gross motor skills as well as fact finding skills and raise awareness in the need for rules, routines and procedures to keep pupils, staff and the environment safe at all times. We believe that the skills pupils learn in horticulture will help give them confidence to function more successfully in their community and will enable them to make better informed life, work and well-being choices in the future.