

Gardening Policy

THE RICHMOND SCHOOL SKEGNESS

According to research undertaken by the Royal Horticultural Society in 2010, 'Gardening in school boosts child development, teaches life skills and makes children healthier and happier.'

As well as improving pupils' confidence, resilience and responsibility the school garden can provide many curriculum opportunities such as increasing scientific knowledge and understanding, improving communication and problem solving skills and providing opportunity for physical activity. Gardening in schools can also encourage a caring and nurturing attitude to protecting our environment and a more sustainable lifestyle.

Aims of this Policy

To promote gardening in our school and to provide guidelines for the use of the school garden.

Areas of Responsibility and Good Practice

The member of staff with overall responsibility for the school garden is the Garden Leader Mr Mills. Other members of the Garden team are Mr Wilkinson and Mrs Payne. All activities are carried out in accordance with current School Policies.

The Garden Leader will ensure that adequate planning is carried out and resources are prepared prior to the start of gardening sessions. They will also ensure that the Garden Planning Log is completed at the end of every session and that rotas and pupil responsibilities are co-ordinated.

Risk Management

Risk assessment

The Garden Leader carries out site specific risk assessments of the whole site every term. The area being used for gardening sessions is checked prior to every session.

Supervision

Each session is supported by at least one adult and each session is carefully evaluated. Children's learning is continually assessed and activities adapted to suit. The garden must remain locked when not in use.

Tool use

The adult supervising each gardening session will ensure that all tools are in a good working order, are appropriately sized, are stored safely and are all returned the garden shed. Sharp and dangerous tools should be stored away from easy access by young children. Children are taught how to use tools safely during initial gardening sessions by demonstration and are then closely supervised. Children must only use tools if they have been instructed to do so. When secateurs are used a glove should be worn on the non-cutting hand.

Clothing

The Garden Leader will ensure that all children are clothed appropriately to suit the weather conditions. If weather conditions are severe then the garden session will be postponed. Children must change out of outdoor footwear before entering the school building.

Children are required to wear gloves during gardening sessions. Hands must be thoroughly washed as soon as children return to the classroom or before eating.

Chemicals

This school will endeavour to garden organically. We will use peat free compost whenever possible.

Plants

We do not knowingly have any toxic plants planted in the school. Children must not eat anything from the school garden without checking with an adult first.

Heavy Objects

Children must not lift heavy objects or bags of compost or overfill wheelbarrows.

Toilet Policy

Children should inform the supervising adult if they wish to use the toilet.

Health and Safety Policies and Procedures

This policy operates in accordance with current school policies.

Approved by: *Stephanie Blanchard Hall*

G Mills September 2011

22.09.2011