

RHS  
GARDEN

 RHS  
Inspiring everyone to grow

# Bridgewater

Supported by  
The Peel Group



## Workshops for Primary and Secondary Schools

The Peel Group is honoured to be a Founding Partner of the RHS Garden Bridgewater and is fully committed to supporting young children in the region

# Introduction



**The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) is the UK's leading gardening charity. The RHS is committed to engaging children with the natural world of the garden and encouraging them to grow their skills and confidence. Promoting physical and mental wellbeing and inspiring young people to become advocates for the environment, we think learning how to sow seeds and care for plants will enthuse the next generation to get growing, and build a happier, healthier and greener future!**

RHS Education and Learning offers a range of interactive, engaging workshops taking place in the unique spaces at RHS Garden Bridgewater. All workshops encourage students to explore and investigate through dynamic, practical activities that complement learning in the classroom.

The RHS offers both guided workshops with an Education Officer and self-guided visits. Educational visits are free if pre-booked. Guided workshops can be chosen from the selection in this brochure.

Workshop activities are adapted to suit the age and needs of the visiting group and we offer activity ideas to complement self-guided visits. Our school programmes are available to all; please speak to the Education Team about any special needs or access requirements that you may have. Our garden is accessible for wheelchair users.

*Discover an inspiring garden where the imagination grows*



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# RHS Garden Bridgewater

**RHS Garden Bridgewater is a new, spectacular 156-acre garden, transforming the historic grounds of Worsley New Hall in Salford into a beautiful green place for the local community and visitors to enjoy all year-round.**

## RHS Garden Bridgewater

### Learning Studio and the Peel Learning Garden

The brand new Learning Studio and Peel Learning Garden are home to the exciting learning programme at RHS Garden Bridgewater.

The Learning Studio is a bright and airy space and the perfect place for pupils to begin their journey of discovery during a visit to the garden. All our activities are interactive and practical with a focus on learning through play, exploration, working together and asking questions.

Inspired by the idea of plants as machines, the Peel Learning Garden is an interactive outdoor space that encourages students to discover how plants grow and the amazing adaptations that help them survive. With a range of interesting species to explore, including sensory herbs and edible plants, the garden is the perfect place to apply horticultural skills and knowledge in a fun, practical way.

The Peel Learning Garden has been made possible through the generous support of The Peel Group.



### Woodland Play

Hidden within the woodlands at RHS Garden Bridgewater is Woodland Play, a dedicated space that champions all aspects of 'wild play' in a series of zoned glades. It features a range of exciting adventure play equipment and opportunities to investigate the natural environment through activities like den building.

Having fun and learning outdoors is increasingly important. With this in mind Woodland Play encourages students to explore, discover and play together, improving their health and wellbeing.

Woodland Play has been made possible through the generous support of United Utilities.

### Community Wellbeing Garden

It is increasingly acknowledged that gardens and green spaces are associated with better physical, social and mental health.

The Community Wellbeing Garden has been created with this understanding in mind. Used by our therapeutic gardening team, it will grow and develop over the coming years, as planting in the garden is completed by its users. We're keen for the garden to be a resource for Educational groups who would benefit from this safe, supported space.



# Primary workshops

## How do plants grow?

Tailored to the science curriculum, these sessions have been designed to develop pupils' scientific skills and build their knowledge and understanding of how plants grow. They will spend time outside investigating, exploring and observing the world around them. They will understand why and how to look after plants and how their actions can help build a greener future.

All of our EYFS and Primary sessions are 90 minutes in length and take place in the Peel Learning Garden.



### Discovering plants

#### EYFS and Key Stage 1

In this interactive journey through the garden pupils will begin to understand how plants grow and what they need to grow healthily. They will explore our unique collection of plants from the smallest shoots to the largest trees and identify the important parts that all plants share.

Pupils will use magnifying glasses to help them look closely and plant a seed to take back to school and look after.



### Exploring plants

#### Lower Key Stage 2

Get hands on with plants to understand their lifecycle; from seed, to shoot, to flower, to fruit. Pupils will investigate the fascinating ways that plants make and disperse seeds to reproduce, explore the garden to discover plants in different stages of life and identify parts of flowering plants through nature's clues.

Pupils will explore the garden and investigate plant lifecycles through role-play and observation, before planting a seed to take back to school.



### Investigating plants

#### Upper Key Stage 2

Think you know everything about plants? Think again! Pupils will explore the garden investigating unusual adaptations and group plants according to their characteristics. They will explore some of the mysterious ways plants can reproduce, including cloning!

Pupils will use equipment to take measurements of the conditions in different parts of the garden and propagate mint from cuttings.

# Plants in our world

These cross-curricular sessions can be tailored to any age group. They encourage pupils to build their understanding of how plants are important in our lives, from supporting our favourite wildlife and providing the food we eat, to keeping us and our planet healthy and helping us relax.

All of our EYFS and Primary sessions are 90 minutes in length and take place in the Peel Learning Garden.

## Who lives in our garden?

### Suitable for all ages

Available May to October

Plants need animals and animals need plants! Pupils will look high and low for the creatures in our garden and find out more about the important role they play for the plants and soil. They will also learn to encourage biodiversity through exploring different areas of the garden.

After exploring the garden eco system, pupils will take part in hands on activities such as building bug hotels in the woodland and making seed dumplings to take back to school.



## Fantastic food

### Suitable for all ages

Available May to October

Edibles are incredible! Pupils will explore our edible plant collection and discover where their food comes from and how it is grown. They will find out about how growing the food we eat can affect our planet.

After visiting the Kitchen Garden and meeting the team who look after it, pupils will plant vegetables to take away, grow, harvest and eat.



## Gardens are good for you

### Suitable for all ages

Pupils will give their senses a workout with a variety of interactive activities supporting them to discover, describe and connect with the world around them and appreciate gardens as an inspiring space. This session will promote wellbeing by connecting with nature through a garden experience.

After smelling herbs and flowers, tuning into our garden orchestra and feeling their way through the undergrowth, pupils will finish by planting sensory cuttings or seeds to take back to school.



## Inspirational nature

### Suitable for all ages

Pupils will find inspiration in our unique garden through reflecting and responding to the constantly changing shapes, colours and textures through the seasons. They will discover and use natural materials to create their own artworks through a range of hands on creative activities.



## Planting for the planet

### Key Stage 2

Why is it great to be green? In this interactive session pupils will be encouraged to think about our impact on the environment and why plants are so important to the planet and their lives. Through interactive activities and demonstrations they will find out about the important work RHS scientists are doing right now to protect our future.

Pupils will spend time out in the woodland and Peel Learning Garden exploring the positive impact nature has on them and on the world around us. After observing and investigating their surroundings, pupils will make paper plant pots and plant seeds to improve green spaces back at school or at home.





## Secondary workshops

RHS Garden Bridgewater

## Dig deeper

These focused sessions can be adapted to suit pupils across Key Stages 3 and 4. Designed with an emphasis on skills and embedded with opportunities to find out more about the unexpected jobs involved in keeping the planet's green spaces healthy, they allow pupils to delve deeper into Horticulture and its relevance to their lives.

Dig Deeper sessions are excellent enrichment activities for smaller groups of 10 to 15 pupils of varying abilities but can also be delivered to a full class. Sessions can be delivered for a full or half day depending on the needs of the group



### Gardening green

**Key Stage 3 and 4**

**Maximum 10 pupils**

This active outdoor workshop will teach pupils the importance of engaging with nature to reduce our environmental footprint. Depending on the time of year activities will include building garden structures and habitats, exploring and gathering materials in the woodland and practical garden maintenance. There will also be the opportunity to find out more about the Horticulture team at RHS Garden Bridgewater and the jobs they do. This session can also be adapted for small groups of Key Stage 2 children studying an alternative curriculum.



### Engineering nature

**Key Stage 3 and 4**

Taking inspiration from the wonders of the garden, pupils will be challenged to engineer creative solutions as a team. After investigating natural structures and materials out in the garden, they'll work together to design a new sustainable piece of adventure play equipment. Pair this guided session with self-guided time in Wild Play where pupils can then be challenged to build the strongest structures out of natural materials.

### Green city challenge

**Key Stage 3 and 4**

Inspired by the rich landscape of RHS Garden Bridgewater, pupils will be encouraged to problem solve and think about why plants are so important to the planet and their lives. They will find out about important research happening right now, from tackling flooding and improving wellbeing to increasing biodiversity. After putting their knowledge and skills into practice with an urban green design challenge, they will get the chance to pitch their ideas to the group.

This workshop was developed in collaboration with Manchester Metropolitan University and the IGNITION project.



## Bringing the classroom outdoors

The unique spaces and rich landscape at RHS Bridgewater are a fantastic resource to enrich learning across the curriculum. Following a short introduction from the Education Team, the garden and Learning Studio are available to use for self-guided activities for larger groups of up to 60.



### Field studies

#### Key Stage 3, 4 and 5

The ecology of RHS Bridgewater makes it the perfect place to deliver field studies with your group. Whether it's soil testing, investigating biodiversity or exploring plant adaptations, the garden is the perfect location to enrich activity in the classroom and apply knowledge in the real world.

### Inspirational nature

#### Key Stage 3, 4 and 5

Find inspiration in our unique garden and allow your pupils to reflect and respond to the constantly changing shapes, colours and textures through the seasons. Pair time exploring the garden to collect ideas using the Learning Studio as a base to interrogate these further. We will provide a selection of resources to support pupils in gathering and developing their ideas including paper, pencils, charcoal, inks and clay.



## SEND groups

Our garden is a perfect environment for all children to feel relaxed, have fun and access quality learning. We cater for children of all abilities aged between 3 and 18 and can adapt existing workshops or create a menu of activities to meet your specific requirements. We are always pleased to have a conversation with group leaders about what they hope to gain from a visit. Please contact the Education Team to discuss your needs.

### Wellbeing at Bridgewater

We also encourage SEND groups to book time in the Community Wellbeing Garden where pupils can take part in practical activities in a safe, supported way. The garden has been specially designed to promote a sense of calm with circular paths and sensory planting. Time in the Community Wellbeing Garden can be paired with other activities delivered in our Learning spaces, such as planting a seed to take away.

## Self-guided visits

Schools are welcome to book a self-guided visit to the garden. Booking is essential for self-guided visits. All teachers organising a visit must also book a pre-visit in order to familiarise themselves with the spaces in the garden.

We have a range of activities for self-guided groups to help you and your pupils to explore the garden. These are all available to download from the RHS website. Please get in touch if you would like support deciding which activities would work best for your group.

RHS expects that pupils are supervised at all times by accompanying adults. Please refer to the 'Important Information' section of this brochure for details on supervision ratios. We will also send you 'Guidance

for completing a Risk Assessment' to support you in preparing for your visit.

As we are a sustainable garden we ask visiting groups to bring a healthy lunch which results in no landfill waste.

### Forest school

Forest School is now run in many schools, though the outdoor space and habitats they have available for this are often limited. RHS Garden Bridgewater has fantastic woodland that would be an excellent resource for local schools who want to deliver Forest School activities on a regular basis. Get in touch with the Education Team to book in for a self-guided visit.

# Campaign for School Gardening



**The RHS Campaign for School Gardening inspires and supports schools to provide children with gardening opportunities to enhance their skills and boost their development.**

Benefits of gardening include:

- Improving physical and mental well-being and encouraging a healthier lifestyle
- Building life skills such as confidence, teamwork and communication
- Enriching the curriculum from science, maths and geography to art, design and languages
- Helping young people engage with their surroundings and develop a sense of responsibility

## Why register?

It is free and simple and all schools receive a starter pack containing seeds, plant labels, posters and more. Registered schools gain access to downloadable resources that help to make the most of any school garden, plus news, training courses and competitions.



## School Gardening Awards

Schools can also take part in our step-by step reward scheme taking pupils through various aspects of gardening from planning and designing to taking cuttings and community gardening. Upon completion of each level, the school is awarded a certificate and prize.

## School Gardening Training Courses

Our extensive programme of training courses enthuse teachers and give them skills and confidence to create outdoor learning experiences that impact children's achievement, health and well-being, whilst supporting the National Curriculum.

Join the Campaign for free and help young people develop growing skills for life at [rhs.org.uk/schoolgardening](https://rhs.org.uk/schoolgardening).



# Important information

## Admission

The RHS is the UK's leading gardening charity and all educational visits to RHS gardens are FREE. Visits must be booked in advance; this includes the guided and self-guided visits. If you feel able to give a donation to the RHS to help support our educational work this would be much appreciated. We ask you to consider a donation of £3 per child for your visit.

## Pre-visits

We ask all teachers to come to the garden to carry out a pre-visit where you can also meet with a member of the Education team to discuss your visit requirements and any changes in the garden that may be taking place. Please email [schoolsbridgewater@rhs.org.uk](mailto:schoolsbridgewater@rhs.org.uk) to make an appointment.

## Arrival information

The coach drop off point is outside the Welcome Building entrance. Please send one staff member to report to the front desk on arrival before the children leave the coach. If you are having a guided session then they will direct you to the Learning Studio where you will start your day. If you are self-guided they will brief you on any information you will need before beginning your time exploring the garden.

## Supervision ratios

Adults must accompany their groups at all times for health and safety reasons.

### Ratios

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| Special Needs    | 1:1  |
| Foundation Stage | 1:4  |
| Years 1-3        | 1:6  |
| Years 4-6        | 1:8  |
| All others       | 1:10 |

## Planning your day

If you have booked a workshop, lunch space or use of the Learning Studio you will be sent an itinerary by the team when you book. We expect most schools will plan a visit between 10am and 2.30pm. Speak to a member of the team if your arrival and departure times are likely to sit outside this.

## Lunches

We encourage schools to bring healthy packed lunches that result in the least amount of landfill waste possible. (Please take this home with you.)

## Risk assessments, health & safety

When you book we will send you some useful information to help you write your risk assessment. It is your responsibility to complete a full risk assessment for your visit. Children must be supervised at all times by accompanying adults.

## Access

Please speak to the Education Officers about any special needs or access requirements that you may have. Our gardens are accessible for wheelchair use.

## Come rain or shine

All our programmes include outdoor experiences in the garden. Please ensure that your children and adults are dressed appropriately for the weather, with suitable footwear, regardless of the season.

## First aid

There is First Aid cover in the Garden in case of an emergency. RHS staff will only carry out first aid under the direction and authority of an accompanying school staff member.

## Allergies

Please inform Education Officers about any allergies (children and accompanying adults) before you visit the garden.



## How to Book

Booking is essential for all educational groups who would like to visit the garden, either as a self-guided or Education Officer led visit. We recommend booking your visit well in advance to avoid disappointment.

In the first instance please email the Education Team at [schoolsbridgewater@rhs.org.uk](mailto:schoolsbridgewater@rhs.org.uk). You can then discuss your requirements with a member of the Education Team and make a provisional booking. We will send you a booking form to complete and return. You will also be sent health and safety information for making risk assessments, guidance and responsibilities

**Our education programme is made possible through the generous support of The Peel Group and United Utilities.**

for your visit and a school visits programme. Your booking will be made permanent when we receive your completed booking form and an email confirmation will then be sent.

### Pre-visits

We strongly advise teachers to make a pre-visit to the garden to familiarise themselves with the landscape of the garden and to meet with a member of the team to discuss your requirements. To book a pre-visit contact the team on [schoolsbridgewater@rhs.org.uk](mailto:schoolsbridgewater@rhs.org.uk)



## How to contact us

### By post

RHS Garden Bridgewater  
Leigh Road  
Worsley  
M28 2LJ

### By e-mail

[schoolsbridgewater@rhs.org.uk](mailto:schoolsbridgewater@rhs.org.uk)

## How to find us

The garden is close to both junctions 13 and 14 of the M60 and to the A580 East Lancashire Road.

Parking is free.



[www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk)