



St John Lloyd RC Primary School Professional Learning & Inquiry Case Study - “The Edible Garden”

Context and background to the activity



Around 5 years ago, St John Lloyd had invested in an outdoor shelter classroom area within its grounds. This grass area of the school playground area had not been used by the school for many years other than extra space for pupils to play in the summer months. The school systematically developed the grounds over many years using a variety of different strategies and approaches, such as forest schools and a garden area in the infant school. The bulk of this work was driven by staff, parents and governors in their own

time. The school was also able to gain funding from local businesses. However, the outside classroom was being not being used to its full potential.

The school decided that it wanted to build upon its successful forest schools initiative, infant garden and wellbeing area in order to transfer and develop key skills from the infants into the junior school. Therefore, an edible garden incorporating the current junior school outdoor classroom area was planned with its focus on developing pupil's wellbeing and cross curricular skills.



The Senior Leadership Team worked alongside key members of staff to successfully bid for a £40,000 grant from Trees4cities to fund the project.

Description of nature of strategy or activity



A key feature of the project was to incorporate food growing, preparing, cooking and eating throughout the school as well as encouraging healthy eating. This would be embedded in the curriculum.



Project Objectives

- To create an Edible Playground that enhances school learning and health, including food growing, and healthy eating, food education and enterprise
- To embed use of the Edible Playground in the school curriculum so it becomes an integrated outdoor learning resource across all areas of the curriculum

Professional Learning & Training offer

Working in partnership with Grow Cardiff

the school allocated 4 INSET days and additional twilight INSET time to train teaching staff and teaching assistants to model best practice and plan for curricular opportunities in the edible Garden. The multi staff involvement approach was invaluable in ensuring a whole-school approach to the school's vision. The response to training has been highly positive and staff have embraced the opportunity to develop. With future planning the school intends to continue this commitment to training, recognising that it is important to keep developing staff and pupil's skill set and confidence.



What a lovely welcome from @SJLCARDIFF #edibleplayground at tonight's staff training. Super organised with seeds already sown for Winter growing plus plenty of veggies and flowers still for harvesting/seed collecting. Well done everyone 🌱 @TreesforCities



What impact has this work had on provision and learners' standards?

- A whole school focus on outdoor learning encourages and enthuses pupils to attend regularly and is used exceptionally well to enhance pupils' physical and mental health.
- The pupils thrive in the extensive and well-developed edible garden, no matter what the weather.
- The range of activities ensures that outdoor learning is used across the curriculum. For example, older pupils show resilience when problem-solving, both in the classroom and at break times, often through interesting and authentic experiences in the garden. They persevere with tasks and attempt alternative ways of working.
- Older pupils develop many useful life skills, for example healthy eating.
- The development of pupils' physical skills is excellent.
- Most pupils develop co-ordination, gross and fine motor skills. They use a wide range of tools for planting.



How have you shared your good practice? The school promotes the use of the edible garden during parental engagement and governor's day. Working with local organisations, such as Grow

Cardiff the school shared best practice and training with other local schools and were part of an outdoor learning day for the community.