



# RHS Garden Bridgewater School Visits



# Discover an inspiring garden where the imagination grows

The RHS is the UK's leading gardening charity, committed to engaging children with the natural world 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, greener future.

The RHS offers two options for school visits – a day in the garden which includes a workshop and a visit to the garden which is self-guided only. All school visits are free if pre-booked.

RHS Education and Learning offers a range of interactive, engaging workshops taking place in the unique spaces of RHS Garden Bridgewater. All our Education Officer led activities are practical with a focus on learning through play, exploration, working together and asking questions.



Workshop activities are adapted to suit the age and needs of the visiting group. We also offer ideas and suggestions to support 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.

RHS Education and Learning has achieved the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge.



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## RHS Garden Bridgewater

RHS Garden Bridgewater is a spectacular 154-acre garden which has transformed 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.

From the Wellbeing Garden where pupils will find the cloud gazing mound and the Orchard surrounding the Garden Cottage, to the fantastic food growing in the Walled Garden, there's plenty to explore. The Chinese Streamside Garden offers stunning vistas, the Woodland offers a space for quiet contemplation, the Mediterranean Glasshouse showcases plants adapted for a warmer and drier climate – there's something for all pupils and learning opportunities galore in the grounds of RHS Garden Bridgewater.

## The Learning Studios and Peel Learning Garden

The exciting learning workshops at RHS Garden Bridgewater for EYFS to age 18 take place in the Learning Studios and garden.

The Learning Studios are bright and airy spaces overlooking the Welcome Garden. Schools booked on to workshops have access to toilets, handwashing facilities and a safe space to store belongings in the Learning Studios.

Learning continues outside including in our specially designed Peel Learning Garden. The Peel Learning Garden is an outdoor space that encourages students to discover how plants grow and the amazing adaptations that help them survive. With a range of 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.



# Primary Workshops

Our Education Team offer a suite of workshops for primary age children. All our workshops provide a wealth of interactive, fun and exciting learning experiences. Children will investigate, explore and observe the world around them, learning how to look after plants and how their actions can help build a greener future. Primary Workshops are planned to complement curriculum objectives.

All of our Primary Workshops are suitable for groups of 15 to 35.

Workshops are 90 minutes long, giving visiting school groups plenty of time outside of the workshop to explore RHS Garden Bridgewater.



# How Plants Grow

Our core 'How Plants Grow' workshops have been designed to develop pupils' scientific skills, knowledge and understanding.



## Discovering Plants Key Stage 1

In this interactive journey through the garden, pupils begin to understand how plants grow and what they need to thrive. From the smallest shoots to the largest trees, pupils identify the parts all plants share and how they are affected by the seasons. Pupils use magnifying glasses, tape measures and bark rubbings to make observations of a variety of trees, then plant a seed to take back to school and germinate.



## 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, and explore the garden to discover real life examples. Pupils will investigate seed dispersal through role-play and observation, before pricking-out lettuces to take home.



## Investigating Plants Upper Key Stage 2

Pupils look at how plants can be classified into groups based on how they reproduce. Using handheld microscopes they'll take an in-depth look at spores and create a clone of a plant by taking a cutting. Pupils will consider evolution and look at some of the ways plants have adapted to suit different environments.

Our educational workshops encourage pupils to delve deeper into why plants are important, from supporting our wildlife and providing the food we eat, to keeping us, and our planet, healthy and happy. Workshops for primary pupils also explore how plants can inspire original art work, and generate a sense of positive wellbeing.



### Who Lives in our Garden? KS1 and KS2

Plants need animals and animals need plants! Join our garden safari as we search for examples of flora, fauna and funga and discover the ways they support each other. How can we classify animals? We look at their diets, lifecycles and anatomy to find out and see how they fit together in food-chains.



### Fantastic Food KS1 and KS2

Edibles are incredible! Pupils will explore our edible plant collection and discover where their food comes from, before doing jobs around the vegetable patch. Through hands-on activities, younger children will learn what parts of a plant we eat, while older children will discover how a flower becomes a fruit and discuss the environmental impact of importing food.



### National Education Nature Park Experience KS1 and KS2

Has your school become part of the DfE's National Education Nature Park yet? This workshop provides an introduction to citizen science as we learn to study the habitats in our garden in line with National Education Nature Park ethos. Through hands-on activities, pupils will be guided to assess and record the habitats and biodiversity at RHS Garden Bridgewater, giving them the confidence to begin the NENP journey back at school.

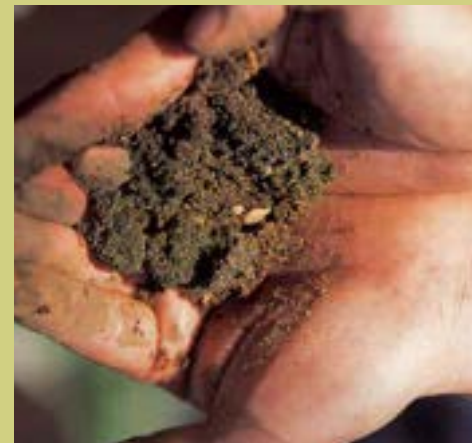


### Gardens are Good for You KS1 and KS2

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, developing an appreciation of gardens as an inspiring space. Through this sensory garden experience, pupils will learn to better connect with nature to promote their own health and wellbeing.

### Inspirational Nature KS1 and KS2

Find inspiration in our unique garden through the seasons. Pupils will be guided to reflect and respond to the constantly changing shapes, colours and textures on display at RHS Garden Bridgewater. They discover the work of artists who themselves found inspiration in plants and nature, and experiment to create their own works of art in a variety of media and styles.



### Planting for the Planet KS2

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. Pupils will go outside to explore the Cop 26 and United Utilities Gardens to look out for some of the ways our own gardens can support the environment. The workshop continues with children putting their knowledge to the test by designing climate friendly gardens using LEGO®. Finally, pupils become environmental activists by planting their own seeds to take home.

# EYFS opportunities

Our youngest educational visitors are invited to take part in a workshop and learn about our ever changing garden. Workshops for EYFS are up to 90 minutes long and start in the Learning Studio, before heading out into the garden.

## Signs of the Seasons, Early Years

Explore the wonder of the natural world through the changing of the seasons! Young pupils will experience the best each season has to offer through sensory, hands-on tours of the garden and woodland. They will discover the parts of plants and learn how plants and their growth are affected by seasonal changes. Pupils will then embark on a hunt of seasonal interest out in the garden before completing a seasonally themed craft activity. The Signs of the Seasons workshop changes content from winter to spring, and summer to autumn.



# Secondary schools



## Plants Keep Us Cool and Capture Carbon KS3

Plants are cool, not least to the air around them. In this workshop pupils investigate the carbon cycle and the role plants play in supporting our planet. Hands-on activities take place in a variety of locations around the garden and include estimating how much carbon is stored in a tree, calculating food air-miles, and exploring nature-based solutions to the climate crisis.



## National Education Nature Park Experience KS3 and 4

This secondary workshop focuses on classifying habitats and exploration of biodiversity in our garden. Pupils will be guided to understand positive, measurable actions that young people can take to make their own local areas more resilient to climate change. By spending time outside in the garden and conducting hands-on investigations, young people will develop their connection with nature and the knowledge and agency to create habitat improvements back at school.



## Field Studies – Room Only KS3, 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. Our Learning Studio is available to book for Key Stage 3, 4, and 5 teachers who would like to enhance their field studies with the use of indoor teaching space. The Learning Studio can be booked for 90 minute slots and is suitable for up to 35 pupils at a time.

# Wellbeing days

## Key Stage 3 and 4

The benefits of connecting with nature for young peoples' mental and physical health are well documented. Our fully outdoor wellbeing days offer a short guided workshop followed by a range of suggested self-led options. Activities are designed to promote wellbeing, self-expression and teamwork, all within a beautiful, natural setting. Wellbeing days are suitable for groups of up to 15 pupils.



## Self-guided time at RHS Garden Bridgewater

- All school visits include the opportunity for self-guided time in the garden. Schools can either visit for a fully self-guided day or enjoy self-guided time before or after their workshop. The unique spaces and rich landscape at RHS Bridgewater are a fantastic resource to enrich learning across the curriculum.
- Booking is essential for all visits including self-guided visits. Teachers organising a visit are strongly advised to book a pre-visit in order to familiarise themselves with the spaces in the garden.
- Self-guided school visits are free. The RHS expects that pupils are supervised at all times by accompanying adults. We have a range of RHS learning activities suitable for self-guided time available through Campaign for School Gardening and National Education Nature Park.
- As we are a sustainable garden, we ask visiting groups to take part in **'The Lunch Box Challenge'**, to bring a healthy lunch which results in no landfill waste.



## 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 up to 18 years in groups of 15 or less where the class includes a significant number of children with additional needs. The Education Team can adapt existing workshops to create a shorter, bespoke workshop 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.

# How to Book

Booking is essential for all school groups who would like to visit the garden, either as a self-guided or visit including a workshop. 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) for an online booking link and information to help plan your day.

## Admission

The RHS is the UK's leading gardening charity and all school visits to RHS Gardens are **free**. Visits must be booked in advance; this includes both workshops 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 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)

## Supervision ratios

Adults must accompany their groups at all times for health and safety reasons. RHS Garden Bridgewater requests that all visiting educational groups adhere to the following guidelines for adult to pupil ratios:

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

## Risk assessments and health and safety

Supporting information to help you write your visit risk assessment will be sent to you with your booking confirmation. 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. In extremely bad weather we will offer an indoor alternative to allow the session to still go ahead. On rare occasions, RHS Gardens may be closed and workshops cancelled at short notice.

# How to find us

## Coach and mini bus travel

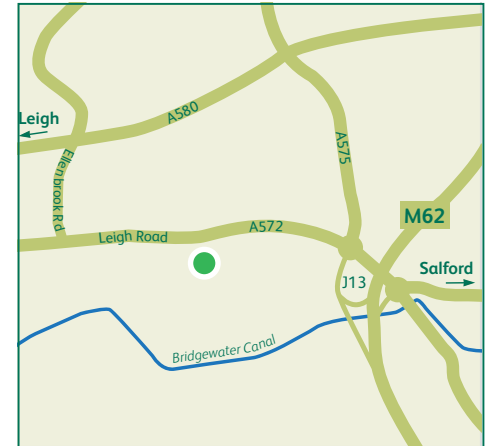
There is a drop off point for groups right outside the Welcome Building at RHS Garden Bridgewater. From this point our Education Officers will guide you into the garden. The garden is close to both junctions 13 and 14 of the M60 and to the A580 East Lancashire Road.

## Parking

Parking for cars and minibuses is free. Coach parking is limited so school coaches should be prepared to move off-site after drop off.

## Buses

RHS Garden Bridgewater is on a number of bus routes. See [tfgm.com](http://tfgm.com) for the most up-to-date bus services.



# Contact details

RHS Garden Bridgewater  
Leigh Road  
Worsley  
M28 2LJ

0161 503 6100  
[schoolsbridgewater@rhs.org.uk](mailto:schoolsbridgewater@rhs.org.uk)





# Supporting our charity

The RHS aims to enrich everyone's life through plants. From national outreach programmes in communities to our world-leading scientific work, we're committed to growing the future of horticulture and making the UK a greener and more beautiful place.

