



Outdoor learning with  
*grow together  
be together*  
community garden



## What is outdoor learning?

Outdoor learning provides opportunities for children to learn in nature. It is a chance for pupils to get their hands dirty, develop their language and kinaesthetic skills as they describe new tastes, smells and sights, and grow in confidence in new environments.

"When planned and implemented well, learning outside the classroom contributed significantly to raising standards and improving pupils' personal, social and emotional development." (Ofsted, 2008)

## Introduction to our Outdoor Classroom

Our community garden has been designed with Permaculture principles, meaning it is naturally pesticide free. It is a fantastic educational resource, showing the variety of produce that can be grown here in East Ham.



Our secure site is large enough for a class of 30 children and supporting teachers to safely explore. We have Newham's only wheelchair accessible compost toilet, as well as water points and handwashing facilities on site.

We also have a large polytunnel that produces food all year round, a cob oven, biodiverse pond, bug hotel, fire pit area and raised food growing beds, producing over 40 different fruits, vegetables and herbs.

This range of features allows us to greatly vary our activities and ensures we can deliver workshops all year round.

Our garden is a valuable community resource, supporting volunteers from all ages and backgrounds to grow food organically. The produce is sold to our local community café, donated to our Foodbank and used in educational cooking workshops. The income we receive from our Outdoor Classroom sessions help secure our project's sustainability and ensures we continue to support our local community's development.

## Our workshops

Our experienced community gardener is able to tailor each workshop to the age group as well as specific activities or topics that you would like us to cover.

## Curriculum links

Our garden is an excellent place to combine a wide range of topics from across the national curriculum as you can see from the workshop themes below.

- Describing different plants – textures, colours (English)
- What conditions do plants need to grow? Carrying out experiments to find out. (Science)
- Comparing where produce is grown and tracking the pupils own groceries on our map. Looking at crops grown in different climates and regions. (Geography)
- Printing, dyeing and rubbings with different plants. (Science)
- Cooking workshops and understanding a healthy and varied diet.
- Changing diets through time (history.)
- Calculating yields of plants, measuring plants, comparing shapes occurring in nature (maths)
- Religious festivals and foods (religious education).



## Activities are adapted according to age group and season, and could include:

- Bug hunt. Observing habitats that insects/ worms/ slugs are found.
- Pond dipping
- Making a bird feeder with seeds.
- Making a seasonal pine cone decoration.
- Sowing seeds in pots to take home.
- Making a mini bug hotel.
- Making a class mandala with leaves/ natural materials.

**Here are some comments from previous Outdoor classroom participants:**

*The children were extremely engaged and enjoyed the hands on experience  
(Gallions School, nurture group)*

*So engaged. Lots of language even from EAL children.  
(Gallions School, Y1)*

*(My favourite thing was) the fennel because it really was so sweet, it's the best  
plant in the world! (Vicarage Primary School, Y3 child)*

*brilliant session at the garden - children loved it  
(Brampton Primary School, Y5)*



*Gardening club is an asset to the community, that our school is lucky to be part of. It gives our inner city kids the opportunity to explore the outdoors...They are given the chance to plant and taste produce. They are discovering how growing food is used in the wider environment, more specifically growing food for a local café – something which excites them a great deal.  
(St Michael's, After School Gardening Club)*

**Hiring our Outdoor Classroom**

The hire of our Outdoor Classroom and community gardener costs £50 per hour for up to 30 children. This includes all activity and material costs and will be tailored to the topic or theme of your choice.

**Requirements**

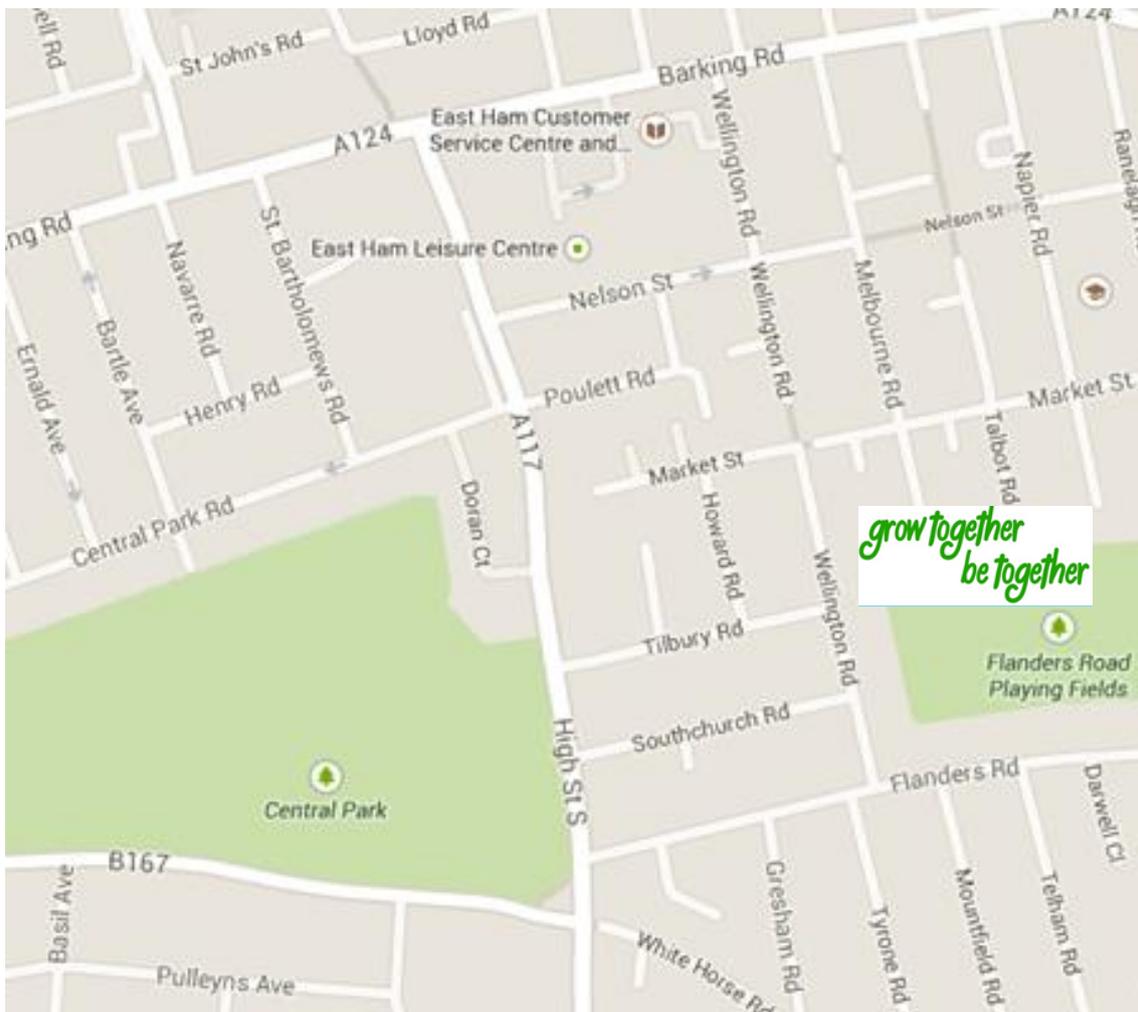
All schools are asked to attend a site visit and complete a risk assessment in advance of your visit to ensure you are aware of safety considerations.

We also ask that you bring enough staff onto our site to support your pupils. We adhere to the Royal Horticultural Society's advice of a teacher to pupil ratio of: 1:4 for foundation stage, 1:6 for year 1-3 and 1:8 for years 4-6.

**For more information and to make a booking please contact:**

[food@bonnydowns.org](mailto:food@bonnydowns.org)

The Grow Together Be Together Outdoor Classroom is located on the NW corner of Flanders Field and is accessed by the gate on Wellington Road, E6 6EB.



For more information and to make a booking please contact [food@bonnydowns.org](mailto:food@bonnydowns.org)