

RHS  
GARDEN

Wisley

 RHS  
Inspiring everyone to grow

**Workshops for  
Primary Schools**



# Discover an inspiring garden where the imagination grows

**The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) is the UK's leading gardening charity. We are committed to engaging children with the natural world of the garden and encouraging them to grow their skills and confidence.**

Gardening and growing plants is great for our physical and mental wellbeing and can help protect the environment. Our aim is to enthuse young people to get growing, sowing seeds and caring for plants. In doing so, they can become advocates for the environment and help to build a happier, healthier, greener future.

RHS Education and Learning offers a range of exciting workshops to suit all ages. Our workshops are run by enthusiastic, highly qualified teachers and are supported by experienced volunteers. The RHS offers both guided workshops with an Education Officer and self-guided visits. Educational visits are free if pre-booked. Guided workshops are 1.5 hours in length and can be chosen from a selection in this brochure or tailor-made to your requirements. All of our workshops are tailored to suit the age and needs of your group. We offer discovery trails and activity ideas to complement self-guided visits.



Our school programmes are available to all. Please speak to the Education Officers about any special needs or access requirements that you may have. Our garden is accessible for wheelchair users.

RHS Garden Wisley has achieved the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge







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# RHS Garden Wisley

RHS Garden Wisley is one of the finest gardens in the world. Stretching out over 97 hectares (240 acres) it is a place where you can access plants not seen elsewhere. The stunning collections include many species of fruit and vegetables, alpine and tropical plants, as well as a host of perennials, bulbs, herbaceous and woody specimens.

## The Clore Learning Centre and Teaching Garden

Guided school visits are held throughout the Garden and in the Clore Learning Centre which was funded by the Clore Duffield Foundation and opened in 2007 ([cloreduffield.org.uk](http://cloreduffield.org.uk)). Our glasshouse hosts more than 5,000 cultivated plants in three different temperature zones; temperate, arid and tropical. The Clore Learning Centre is a flexible learning space with a Discovery Room and Growing lab for practical gardening sessions. In our Teaching Garden, students can find plants adapted to a variety of habitats, discover our 'pollinators' bed', see our vegetables growing and explore various aspects of practical horticulture. The established hornbeam hideaway makes a useful seating and teaching space. To ensure the safety of the children, the Teaching Garden is not open to the public when schools are using the Clore Learning Centre, but is open to visitors and families at other times.







# Primary Workshops

The aim of our workshop programme is to stimulate and capture children's curiosity about nature and gardening through exciting hands-on experiences.

## RHS Garden Wisley

We offer eleven core workshops, covering a range of different subject areas and with strong curriculum links. The RHS is keen to ensure that the workshops are relevant to your children's studies in school and take full advantage of the Garden and resources that we can offer at RHS Wisley. Most importantly, we want them to be engaging and fun for your young learners.

### How Plants Grow: Discovering Plants

#### EYFS / Key Stage 1

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



### How Plants Grow: Exploring Plants

#### Lower Key Stage 2

Get hands on with plants to understand their lifecycle: from seed, to shoot, to flower to fruit. We 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.

### How Plants Grow: Investigating Plants

#### Upper Key Stage 2

Think you know everything about plants? Think again! Students will explore the Garden to investigate unusual adaptations of plants and group plants according to their characteristics. We will finish with some hands-on exploration of the mysterious ways in which plants can reproduce and even clone.







## Fantastic Food

### Suitable for all ages

Edibles are incredible! Explore our Vegetable Garden to identify and discover edible plant parts and find out where your food comes from and how it is grown. Find out about how growing the food we eat can affect our planet.



## Planting for the Planet

### Upper Key Stage 2

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



## Who Lives in our Garden?

### Suitable for all ages

Plants need animals and animals need plants. 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. Learn how to encourage biodiversity as you explore different garden habitats.



## 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.



## Inspirational Nature

### Suitable for all ages

Find inspiration in our unique garden and allow your students to reflect and respond to the constantly changing shapes, colours and textures through the seasons. Discover and use natural materials with a range of hands-on activities to begin your next art project.





## Discovering Trees

### Suitable for all ages

Come and meet the biggest living things in our collection on a journey through the Pinetum or Arboretum. Identify a variety of native British trees as well as trees from around the world. Explore deciduous and evergreen trees, find out just how large the biggest tree in the world can get and use a range of methods to measure these garden giants. Learn about the importance of healthy trees in supporting biodiversity in our gardens and beyond.



## Plant Hunters

### Suitable for all ages

Pack a passport and travel thousands of miles without leaving Wisley. Discover how plants adapt to their surroundings as you journey through a steamy rainforest and hot arid desert. Be amazed at the range of adaptations that plants have evolved in order to thrive in some of Earth's most challenging biomes. Find out about the epic adventures of RHS plant hunters who collect plants from all over the world.



## Get Growing

### Suitable for all ages

Become a gardener for the day and discover how to sow seeds, take cuttings, and assist with seasonal gardening tasks in the learning garden or allotments, while learning the requirements plants need for life and healthy growth. Be inspired to garden and enjoy hands-on experiences with plants in Wisley's wonderful surroundings. Learn how being a gardener supports biodiversity and can have a positive environmental and personal impact.

# Workshop Information

## Science and Gardening Clubs

We welcome visits from science and gardening clubs, either for an Education Officer-led session or as a self-guided visit. This can be during the school day or after school time. The minimum number for a guided visit is 15 students.

## Themed Weeks

We arrange themed days and weeks, such as National Science and Engineering Week or National Insect Week. Please let us know your contact details if you would like to be added to our mailing list for educational news and special events by telephoning 01483 212432 or email [schoolswisley@rhs.org.uk](mailto:schoolswisley@rhs.org.uk)





# Self-Guided Visits

## Wellbeing at Wisley

Schools are welcome to book a self-guided visit to the Garden. Booking is essential for both guided and self-guided visits. All teachers organising a visit should book a pre-visit at least 6 months prior to their visit date to aid in the completion of their risk assessment.

We have a range of materials and activities for self-guided groups to ensure you get the most out of your visit. These can be viewed and downloaded from our website.

- Information on writing a risk assessment for your visit
- Explorers Map for Schools

Several areas of the garden lend themselves to science teaching. The Vegetable and Fruit Gardens are ideal places to engage with issues such as food production and sustainability. The Garden can be used for small-scale ecological studies and the Trials Field is an excellent location for studying variation between and within plant species.



In addition to our work with science and environment groups, we regularly welcome students of art, design and photography to Wisley. Many art students take inspiration from our wide selection of stunning landscapes.

Self-guided visits are free but the RHS expects that students are supervised at all times by accompanying adults. Lunches can be eaten in most areas of our garden.

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

# Booking information

## Admission

The RHS is the UK's leading gardening charity. All educational visits (guided and self-guided) are FREE, however, these must be booked in advance. 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 £3 per child for your visit.

## Pre-visits

We strongly advise teachers to come to the Garden for a pre-visit at least 6 months before the visit date to ensure they are familiar with the Garden and to assist in making a risk assessment. Education Officers will be available at certain times to meet schools to discuss particular visit requirements. Alternatively teachers can visit independently, at their own convenience. All pre-visits must be booked in advance. Please contact us to make an appointment on 01483 212432 or email [schoolswisley@rhs.org.uk](mailto:schoolswisley@rhs.org.uk).

## On the Day

Coaches are able to park and drop off passengers in the coach parking area; it is then a short walk to the entrance. If you have booked a guided visit to the Garden, an Education Officer will meet you at the front entrance to bring you into the garden. The garden opens at 10am on weekdays all year round.

If you have booked a self-guided visit, please make your arrival known to our front entrance staff and they will allow you entry to the Garden.

## Adult Supervision

These ratios may include volunteer helpers. Adults must accompany their groups at all times for health and safety reasons. Please see the information contained in the 'Requirements for school groups' leaflet or accessed through the RHS website: [rhs.org.uk](https://www.rhs.org.uk)

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

## Bags and Lunches

If you have booked a guided visit we have cloakrooms available to store coats, bags and packed lunches. We encourage schools to bring packed lunches that result in the least amount of landfill waste possible.

## Risk Assessments and Health and Safety

Supporting information to help you write your visit risk assessment will be sent to you with your booking form or can be accessed from [www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/gardening-children-schools](https://www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/gardening-children-schools). We will also send our leaflet 'Requirements for School Groups' which includes guidance and responsibilities for leaders.

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.

**Booking is essential for all educational groups who would like to visit the Garden, for either a guided or self-guided visit. We recommend booking your visit well in advance to avoid disappointment, particularly for visits in March, May, June and July when we are busy.**

## How to Book a Visit

Call the Education Team on 01483 212432, or email: [schoolswisley@rhs.org.uk](mailto:schoolswisley@rhs.org.uk) to discuss your requirements and reserve a date.

The minimum number for a guided visit with an Education Officer is 15 children with accompanying adults. For SEN schools please contact us with regard to numbers.

If you would like to book a self-guided visit you can call us to reserve your date, or alternatively book online via the school visit pages of our website.

We will send you a booking form to complete and return. You will also be sent health and safety information for making risk assessments and guidance and responsibilities for your visit.

Your booking will be made permanent when we receive your completed booking form. Please note that we do not send a letter of confirmation for your visit.



## Top Tips for planning your Visit

Make a pre-visit to discuss your visit requirements with an Education Officer and familiarise yourself with the garden. Use the pre and post visit lesson plans available on the RHS website in the Learning and Education section to support your visit.

For an alternative format of this brochure, please call 01483 212432 email: [schoolswisley@rhs.org.uk](mailto:schoolswisley@rhs.org.uk)





## How to contact us:

### By post

Education and Learning  
RHS Garden Wisley  
Woking  
Surrey GU23 6QB

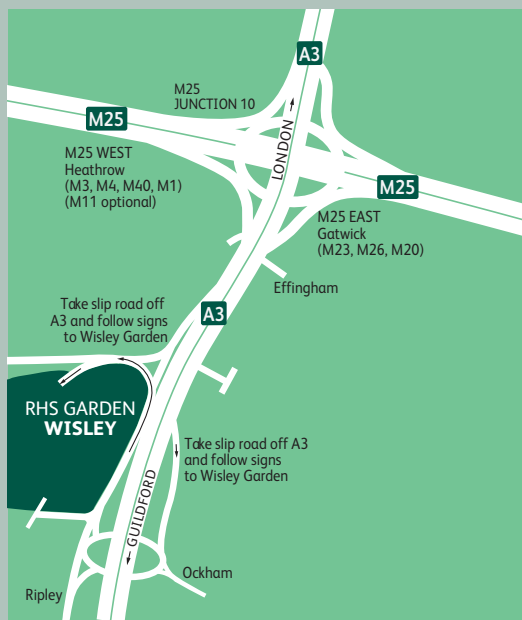
### By telephone

01483 212432

### By e-mail

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

## How to find us



The Garden lies between Cobham and Ripley in Surrey, off the main London to Portsmouth road (A3) South of Junction 10 off the M25. Follow the brown tourist flower signs on the A3 and M25 to RHS Garden Wisley. Parking is free.

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

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