

# Introduction

This Teachers' Resource Pack aims to help all teachers use their school gardens and grounds as a creative learning resource. Schools across the country and pupils of all ages can make use of their outdoor spaces to enhance teaching and learning, whatever their location. The pack contains 22 factsheets and a wall poster based on the features made by participating schools and incorporated in the Growing Schools Garden. The factsheets give details of how to recreate these and provide links to the curriculum, illustrating the wide range of imaginative and educational features that can be made by pupils and teachers in school without major expense. They are intended to inspire schools to develop their own ideas for bringing school grounds to life in useful, enjoyable and creative ways.

The Growing Schools Garden was first exhibited at the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show in 2002. This marked the public launch of Growing Schools, a major government initiative encouraging schools to harness the full potential of the outdoor classroom as a context for learning, both within and beyond the school grounds.

The aim of the show garden was to demonstrate how barren playgrounds could be transformed into exciting and welcoming green spaces. The design incorporated the ideas, many already in everyday use, from 21 schools around the country, as well as features they had made and plants the pupils had grown from seed. Early Years, Primary, Secondary and Special Schools were all represented in the garden; some large, some small; some rural, some urban; some from prosperous areas, others from areas of acute deprivation. But common to them all was an infectious enthusiasm, a real commitment to outdoor learning and enormous creativity in the use of their outdoor spaces.

The garden was a huge hit with the public, and received massive media attention. The Royal Horticultural Society judges declared it an inspiration to young people, and awarded it a prestigious silver-gilt medal. It provided an excellent example for teachers, pupils, governors, parents and the general public alike, of what schools can achieve, regardless of location, budget or resources.

The Growing Schools Garden was a partnership project, managed by *Gardening Which?* magazine, gardening experts with a track record of successful issue-led / campaigning show gardens. The other partners involved were the Department for Education & Skills (DfES), who initiated and part-funded the project; Learning through Landscapes and the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens, both experts in the development of school grounds as a context for learning. The garden was generously sponsored by National Grid Ltd, and also received invaluable 'in-kind' support from many other businesses and organisations (see list overleaf).

The garden has been reconstructed at Greenwich Curriculum Environmental Centre in Eltham, south east London, for use as a training facility for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Initial Teacher Training (ITT), both locally and nationally and as a resource for local schools. If you would like to visit the garden or find out about training courses, please contact Learning through Landscapes in London, 77 Bexley Road, London SE9 2PE, tel: 020 8850 3112.

All the factsheets may be freely photocopied and digital versions may be viewed and downloaded from the website: [www.teachernet.gov.uk/growingschools](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/growingschools).



# Contributors

Growing Schools would like to acknowledge the contributions made to the garden by the following companies and organisations:

**Box Watch Ltd**  
provided the birdbox with CCTV  
Brackenhouse  
Bank Farm  
Cowden  
Kent TN8 7EG  
Tel: 01342 850259  
[www.boxwatch.co.uk](http://www.boxwatch.co.uk)

**Geffrye Museum**  
provided historical herbs  
Kingsland Road  
Shoreditch  
London E2 8EA  
Tel: 020 7739 9893

**I.S. Maintenance Ltd**  
provided arch, railings & wind turbine mast  
Wakefield Road  
Smithies, Barnsley  
South Yorkshire S71 1PA  
Tel: 01226 297286

**LMV Ltd**  
provided wind turbine  
Old Oak Close  
Arlesey  
Bedfordshire SG15 6XD  
Tel: 01462 73 33 36

**Maestro International Ltd**  
provided drinking fountain  
11-17 Powerscroft Road  
Sidcup  
Kent DA14 5NH  
Tel: 020 8302 4035  
Fax: 020 8302 8933  
[www.maestrointl.com](http://www.maestrointl.com)

**Magical Marking Ltd**  
applied playground markings  
Roall Lane  
Roall  
Kellington DN14 0NA  
Tel: 01977 662500

**Marks & Spencer PLC**  
provided tomato expert & tomatoes for taste testing sessions  
Michael House  
Baker Street  
London W1U 8EP  
Tel: 020 7935 4422  
Fax: 020 7487 2670

**Spa Irrigation Products**  
provided watering system  
217 Bath Road  
Cheltenham  
Gloucestershire GL53 7NA  
Tel: 01242 228940  
[www.garden-irrigation.co.uk](http://www.garden-irrigation.co.uk)

**Straight Line Fencing**  
provided rustic fencing in wildlife area  
10 Linchmere Road  
Haslemere  
Surrey GU27 3QF  
Tel: 01428 651728

**Tarmac Ltd National Contracting**  
provided playground surface material  
Hayes Road  
Ham Hill  
Snodland  
Kent ME6 5LA  
Tel: 01634 242514  
[www.tarmac.co.uk](http://www.tarmac.co.uk)

**The Bat Conservation Trust**  
provided batboxes  
15 Cloisters House (Unit 15)  
8 Battersea Park Road  
London SW8 4BG  
Tel: 020 7627 2629  
Tel: 0845 1300 228  
[www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk)

**The Hawk & Owl Trust**  
provided birdboxes  
15 Butterfield Road  
Wheathampstead AL4 8PX  
Tel: 01582 832182  
[www.hawkandowl.org](http://www.hawkandowl.org)

**Today's Energy Systems**  
gave design input & advice for alternative energy feature  
19 Albany Drive  
Wolsley Gardens  
Rugeley  
Staffordshire WS15 2HP  
Tel: 01889 584667

**Wiggly Wiggles**  
provided wormery  
Lower Blakemere  
Herefordshire HR2 9PX  
Tel: 01981 500391  
[www.wigglywiggles.co.uk](http://www.wigglywiggles.co.uk)

**Wildlife World**  
provided wildlife boxes, bird feeder  
Street Farm  
Sinchcombe  
Near Dursley  
Gloucestershire GL11 6AW  
Tel: 0870 7572233

**W C Thomerson Ltd**  
provided wood for bird hide  
20 Middle Lane  
London N8 8PL  
Tel: 020 8340 2742

**Woodlands Farm Nursery**  
provided stone trough, millstone, barrel for pond  
The Green  
Wood Street Village  
Guildford  
Surrey GU3 3DU  
Tel: 01483 235536  
[www.salvo.co.uk/dealers/woodlands-farm](http://www.salvo.co.uk/dealers/woodlands-farm)

