

About the programme

OSF Garden Schools (GS) was developed in partnership between *Aberdeen University School of Education* and *One Seed Forward (OSF)*.

GS aims to support and encourage the establishment of gardens for food growing in schools, to:

- Encourage children and teachers to learn about growing
- Introduce discussions around fresh food and healthy eating
- Promote community engagement in food growing initiatives
- Provide educational materials linked to curricular areas, using the school garden as a focus for learning and well-being

Who should use the programme?

GS is aimed at anyone who has a role in helping school pupils set up and/or maintain a flourishing school garden - this includes student teachers, teachers, and Pupil Support Assistants.

Additionally, although designed primarily for schools, the GS programme can be used in other community settings. For that reason, community workers, or others, with this type of role and remit will also benefit from using it.

Programme Contents

8 GS units guide you, through establishing a garden space, to harvesting and cooking your produce, and everything in-between!

Unit	Topic	Suggested Month
1	From School Grounds... ...to School Gardens	August/ September
2	The Mystery of Growth	October
3	The Secrets of the Soil	November/ December
4	Crazy Compost	January
5	From Small to Big: Seeds and Germination	February
6	From Planting to Growing	March
7	Tending the Garden	April
8	Harvesting and Cooking	May/ June

The order and timings shown is as a guide only.

Materials include:

- **Short films**
- **Reading and activity materials**
- **GS programme materials**
- **Links to other useful resources**
- **A *School Garden Calendar* to help plan and timetable activities**

How does it work?

The GS programme materials are freely available for self-directed use. They can be found on the *OSF Garden Schools* website: www.OSFGardenSchools.co.uk.

Use of the programme and materials is entirely flexible to allow for different situations and different age groups.

On-Line Training

An on-line training resource is also available at www.abdn.ac.uk/education/research/garden-schools-resource

The training resource gives added support and guidance by:

- Taking users through the GS programme and materials in a stepwise and timely manner
- Highlighting useful additional reading and resources
- Helping achieve rewarding delivery of the programme and a productive school garden

Participation in the on-line training will benefit Professional Development. A *Certificate of Completion* is available to anyone who successfully completes all short knowledge quizzes found at the end of each unit.

GS Awards

As well as supporting and guiding schools to achieve a flourishing school garden, the GS programme offers rewards along the way!

The programme recognises 5 stages of achievement (described in the *GS Award Framework* - found on the GS website), for which a Certificate of Achievement and gardening vouchers are awarded.

GS also offers a *Climate Action Award*.



Teaching through gardening

The *Garden Schools* programme provides a variety of educational materials which link to different curricular areas, including, maths/ arithmetic, English, science, art, drama and physical activity.



A garden school promotes children's learning and well-being, focusing on the activity of growing food in the school garden.



Visit our websites:

www.abdn.ac.uk etc.
www.osfgardenschools.co.uk
www.oneseedforward.co.uk

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Garden Schools

- using the school garden as a focus for learning and well-being.

