

Using food to teach National Curriculum Learning Objectives

Food embedded into the curriculum

Food is a great vehicle to drive forward understanding of subjects and at Charlton Manor Primary is used to great effect in the curriculum. Embedded into the curriculum it supports children develop a 'real' understanding of concepts such as weights and measures, ratios, proportions, fractions, capacity and time as well as area, diameter, perimeter, length, space, shape, measures, data collection, graphs, angle and provides scope for problem solving.

"whilst other schools teaching weighing with pictures of scales and arrows pointing to different numbers our children do it almost every day with the chefs"

Used effectively and creatively food can provide the vehicle for discussions such as GM crops, organic, Fairtrade, vegetarian, building on greenbelt, sustainability, food miles, local produce, seasonality and many others.

History, Geography, Science, DT, ICT, RE, PSHE and Art can also be covered in so many ways by food and the outdoor experience.

Food playing a major part in the school curriculum as well as extra-curricular activities has also supported community cohesion and has developed closer links with parents through schemes such as parent and child cooking together, after school meals, breakfast clubs, open days, summer and Christmas fairs, cooking to a budget.

Photo:

Food education embedded into the curriculum helps children develop a real understanding of where food comes from



Getting the community involved

Our new community project will run through term time with staff taking children to the farm and working with them on literacy and numeracy supported by planting, growing and harvesting of the food. This will then lead to pupils cooking and preparing the produce to sell or to eat. Pupils can work in the shop pricing and working out costing for what they produce, speaking and listening to customers, as well as advertising using persuasive language. Other subjects such as History, Science etc. can also be covered. During weekends and holidays the children will still be able to access the space and therefore keep on with their learning.

The summer holidays contribute greatly to increasing the gap between children who have paid meals and pupil premium children and this is where the project plays a vital role in ensuring that this gap is kept to a minimum or closed completely. 6 weeks of no input from teachers in literacy or numeracy, no structure or routine and unhealthy meals has a tremendous impact on children and teachers are left in September trying to raise attainment for a significant amount of children, particularly the pupil premium children, back to where it was before September.

This project will ensure that there are staff at the farm that have worked with the children during the term time and know where they are in terms of attainment. They will target the areas in Literacy and Numeracy using food and the children's preferred learning style, mainly kinaesthetic, and keep attainment up. At the same time children who are at risk or are a safeguarding concern can also be targeted as 6 weeks of no school can be very worrying for these children.

Charlton Manor will provide transport to the farm from the school for the project so that parents are supported with transport. Other children wishing to participate can join in too.