

CAMBRIDGESHIRE ACRE CASE STUDY

Good Food for Cambridgeshire

The Good Food for Cambridgeshire project aims to encourage the growing and eating of fresh produce in two localities in Cambridgeshire; Wisbech and Ramsey. The Good Food Project is currently supported by the BIG Lottery Fund via the Wellbeing in the East Consortium and local partners. Food gardens are created and then run by the project worker in primary and secondary schools, the students are also given the opportunity to cook some of the produce they harvest with Mums about Food – our specialist contractors. The wider community is reached through working in partnership with local community centres.

This case study illustrates the progress of the food garden in Orchards Church of England Primary School, Wisbech.



Weeding onions in May 2007

The garden was started in June 2006 when three long vegetable beds were created from an unused piece of grass near to the school canteen. In subsequent years, three small raised beds, a composting area, a hedge of mixed native shrubs and trees and two arches (put together by the children) have been added.

The two Year 4 classes in the school have ownership of the garden and tend it in small groups of six at a time.

Harvested produce is tasted by the children in their gardening sessions and then taken home to share with their families. A gardening activity diary is kept and displays are periodically put up in the schools' foyer.

The garden has yielded a range of crops; potatoes, leeks, lettuce, beetroot, strawberries, carrots, peas, broad and runner beans, onions, garlic and herbs. In 2007, the Year 4 gardeners entered a pumpkin growing competition run by Cambridgeshire County Council and won £50 which was spent on gardening equipment.

Students' comments:

"I like taking the vegetables home" (Jasmine); "Interesting and fun" (Tom); "I like to dig" (Tiffany); "Gardentastic fun" (Courtney)



Picking tomatoes in September 2007