

Workshops for Primary and Secondary Schools at Hyde Hall



Introduction



The Royal Horticultural Society is the UK's leading gardening charity. The RHS is 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 for school groups of all ages.

Our workshops are run by enthusiastic, qualified teachers and are supported by an experienced and dedicated team of volunteers.

Schools can choose from workshops led by an Education Officer or self guided visits. Guided workshop sessions are classed as whole day visits and run between 10:00 - 2:00pm these can be selected from the brochure or alternately, tailor made to your

requirements. Workshop activities are differentiated to suit the age and needs of each group.

Our schools programmes are available to all, please speak to the Education and Learning Team regarding any special needs or access requirements. The garden is accessible for wheelchair users and transport to the top of the hill can be arranged for those with walking difficulties.

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RHS Garden Hyde Hall has achieved the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge



RHS Garden Hyde Hall

A school visit to RHS Garden Hyde Hall is very much a 'hands on learning experience' with workshops carefully planned to provide practical learning activities to support The National Curriculum's Programmes of Study. We offer workshops for a wide range of subjects, suitable for children of all ages and abilities.

Hyde Hall, as well as being an inspirational garden, offers a diverse range of habitats for all to explore. There are colourful meadows, full of interesting plants and fascinating insects, woodlands showcasing our native trees and a range of planting schemes to inspire and educate our visitors about the wonderful world of plants.

The Global Growth Vegetable Garden is overflowing with familiar varieties of fruit and vegetables as well as edible plants from all over the world, giving children the opportunity to see where their food comes from and to learn how to grow it for themselves.



The Clore Learning Centre and Garden

Guided school visits are held in the Clore Learning Centre, a purpose built education building which opened in 2018. Our facilities include a designated studio space that can cater for up to 90 students at one time or can be used as two separate learning spaces, which open out onto the Learning Garden. In the Learning Garden students can explore the story of plants; from poisonous plants, plants for pollinators or discover how plants have adapted to grow in a variety of different habitats.

To ensure the safety of the children, the Learning Garden is closed to the public when schools are using the Clore Learning Centre but is open to visitors and families at other times.



"The children's learning was excellent today- they were engaged, motivated and enthusiastic"



Primary workshops

Our aim is to stimulate and capture children's curiosity about nature and gardening through exciting hands-on experiences.

We offer 9 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 Hyde Hall. Most importantly, we want them to be engaging and fun for our young learners. All workshops include sowing seeds that the children can take home and nurture.



How plants grow: discovering plants

EYFS/ Key Stage 1

On our journey through the garden, we will begin to understand how plants grow and what they need to grow healthily. We will find out about the plants we use in our daily lives, how they change throughout the seasons and explore the garden to discover a variety of plants.



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 how plants reproduce by exploring pollination and seed dispersal. Out in the garden children will explore different stages of plant growth and what they need to grow well.



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, how they have evolved to survive and learn about how plants are classified.

Gardens are good for you

Suitable for all ages

Pupils will give their senses a workout with a variety of 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.



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 to explore biodiversity as you investigate different garden habitats.

Plant hunters

Suitable for Key Stage 2

Find out about the lives of plant hunters who explored the world in search of new plants. Navigate the garden gathering plant material to create a plant press. In the Global Growth Vegetable Garden discover edible plants from different continents. Learn about plant groupings and classification and see how plants have adapted and evolved in different areas of the garden.

Available June- September.



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.



Rocks and soils

Suitable for Key Stage 2

Children will learn about the three main rock groups and the importance of soil. We look at rocks we use in our daily lives and investigate their characteristics with simple experiments. Learn how soil is made and who lives in this amazing habitat.

Get growing

Suitable for Garden and Eco clubs

Become a gardener for the day and discover how to sow seeds, take cuttings, and assist with seasonal gardening tasks in the learning garden, whilst learning what plants need to grow healthily. Learn how being a gardener supports biodiversity and can have a positive environmental and personal impact.



Secondary school guided workshops

We are able to tailor make workshops to support particular subjects and topics at Key stage 3 & 4. Several areas of the garden lend themselves to science teaching such as the Global Growth Vegetable Garden, which are ideal places to engage with issues such as food production and sustainability, or discover the biodiversity of insects in our meadows. We also welcome visits from garden and eco clubs for an education officer led garden tour and growing activities.



Inspirational nature

The gardens at Hyde Hall provide a wealth of visual references to inspire a wide range of art, graphics, photography, fashion and textile subjects. Bespoke visits can be arranged to tie in with projects and can be supported through guided and self-guided visits, visual recording workshops and hands on activities.

If you wish to discuss a visit please contact the Education and Learning team on **01245 402115**

“The school were able to do a wonderful trip to a safe environment and we were able to take ideas back to our new forest school”

Self-guided visits

Schools are welcome to book a self-guided visit to the garden. Booking is essential for guided and self-guided visits.

To ensure you get the most out of your visit, activities for self-guided groups can be viewed and downloaded from our website.

The RHS expects that students are supervised at all times by accompanying adults. Lunches can be eaten in one of our picnic areas.



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 make the most of any schools 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 designing 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 gives them 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 for free and help young people develop growing skills for life at rhs.org.uk/schoolgardening

How to book

Booking is **essential** for all educational groups who would like to visit the garden, either as a guided or self-guided visit. We recommend booking your visit well in advance to avoid disappointment, particularly for visits in the summer term when we are busy. All educational visits to RHS gardens are free, however we suggest a donation of £3 per child to cover costs and support our charitable aims.

How to book a visit...

Call the Education Team on **01245 402115** or email: schoolshydehall@rhs.org.uk

Talk through your requirements with a member of the Education Team and discuss availability.

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

Your booking will be made permanent when we receive your completed booking form and an email confirmation will then be sent.

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.



Important information

Admission

All visits and workshop sessions must be booked in advance; this includes guided and self-guided visits. The RHS is the UK's leading gardening charity and all educational visits to RHS gardens are free, however we suggest a donation of £3 per child to help support our educational work.

Pre-visits

We strongly advise teachers to come to the garden and attend a pre-visit meeting with an Education Officer to discuss your visit requirements.

Please phone **01245 402115** to make an appointment.

On the day

Coaches are able to drop off passengers in the coach drop off area and park in the allocated parking bays;

If you are having 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.

Adult supervision

These ratios may include volunteer helpers. Adults must accompany their groups at all times for health and safety reasons.

Ratios

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

Coats, bags and packed lunches can be stored in The Clore Learning Centre. If you are having a guided visit with an Education Officer, we encourage schools to bring packed lunches that result in the least amount of landfill waste as possible and request that all lunch waste is taken home.

There are picnic areas for outdoor eating and play.

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. Children will be provided with a high visibility vest to wear for the duration of their visit.

Access

Please speak to the Education Officers about any special needs or access requirements that you may have. Our garden is accessible for wheelchair use.

Come rain or shine

All our programmes include outdoor experiences in the garden. Please ensure that your children are dressed sensibly for the weather, with suitable footwear and appropriate clothing 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. Please provide this information on the Booking Form.



“It was one of the best visits I have been on in 16yrs of teaching”

How to contact us:

By post

Education and Learning
RHS Garden Hyde Hall
Creepedge Lane
Rettendon
CHELMSFORD
Essex CM3 8ET

By telephone

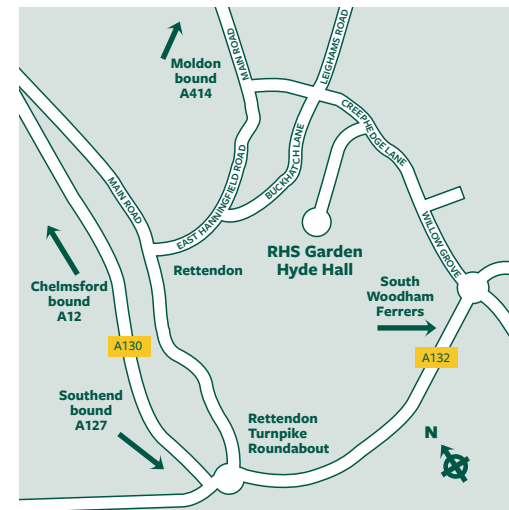
01245 402115

By e-mail

schoolshydehall@rhs.org.uk

How to find us

RHS Garden Hyde Hall, Creepedge Lane,
Rettendon, Chelmsford, CM3 8ET 01245 400256



Sat Nav: **CM3 8RA**

Hyde Hall is just 20 minutes from Chelmsford and is signed from the A130 (southbound).

- Leave the **M25 at junction 29** for A127 (signed Southend). From the A127 exit onto the A132 (signed Wickford/South Woodham Ferrers).
- Or leave the **A12 at junction 17**, then at the roundabout take the second exit for the A130 (signed Southend/Basildon)

From the A130 Rettendon Turnpike roundabout follow the tourist signs towards **South Woodham Ferrers on the A132**.

At the Shaw Farm roundabout turn left into Willow Grove/Creepedge Lane.

There is ample free car parking. On arrival please make your way to the Visitor Centre.

www.rhs.org.uk

