

Workshops for Primary Schools



Where plants inspire lives

RHS Garden Wisley
Learning and Families

rhs.org.uk/wisley

Registered Charity Number: 222879/SC038262



Discover an inspiring garden where the imagination grows

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) is the UK's leading gardening charity. The RHS is committed to engaging children with the natural world of the garden and inspiring an understanding of science. Learning how to sow seeds and care for plants enthuses and encourages the next generation.

RHS School and Family Learning offers a range of exciting workshops to suit all ages. Our workshops are run by enthusiastic, highly qualified teachers and are supported by experienced volunteers.

The RHS offers both guided workshops with an Education Officer and self-guided visits. Educational visits are free if pre-booked. Guided workshops are 1.5 hours in length and can be chosen from a selection in this brochure or tailor-made to your requirements. Workshop activities are differentiated to suit the age and needs of the visiting group and we

offer a number of discovery trails and activity ideas to complement a self-guided visit.

Our school programmes are available to all, please speak to the Education Officers about any special needs or access requirements that you may have. Our garden is accessible for wheelchair users.

The RHS supports the DfES 'Manifesto for Learning Outside the Classroom' for the unique contribution these experiences make to young people's lives.

RHS Wisley has achieved the Growing Schools Award

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Workshops

	Curriculum Links						
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Foundation Stage / Key Stage 1							
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Ready, steady, grow!	•	•				•	•
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Sowing and growing: the magic of seeds	•		•				•
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Delve with Dr. Dirt	•						
Come rain or shine	•		•			•	
Plant Explorers							
Andy Goldsworthy				•			•
William Morris				•			•
A Jungle Journey with Henri Rousseau				•			•
Mini beast detectives	•			•		•	•

Throughout the year, there will be opportunities to take part in themed workshops, such as Butterflies in the Glasshouse, Christmas Activities and Taste of Autumn. Check the RHS website for further details.

rhs.org.uk/children/for-schools/school-visits



The Clore Learning Centre

Guided school visits are held in the Clore Learning Centre which was funded by The Clore Duffield Foundation and opened in 2007. (www.cloreduffield.org.uk)

Our new learning programme for primary schools enables children to access and extend the curriculum using the exciting outdoor and indoor resources at RHS Garden Wisley.

Our facilities include the Glasshouse which features three different temperature zones and the Root Zone, the Teaching Garden along with the Clore Learning Centre, incorporating a Discovery Room and a Growing Lab for practical gardening and science.

To ensure the safety of the children, the Teaching Garden is not open to the public during the week, but is open to visitors and families at weekends.



“I found out that you don’t have to climb up a tree to measure it. I didn’t realise there are so many ways to measure a tree!”

Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1

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



How does your garden grow?

Available all year



Find out about plants that are all around us. Name the parts of a plant and find out about the jobs they do. Explore the garden and discover the amazing variety of plants from the tallest trees to the tiniest flowers. Investigate life cycles and sow some seeds of your own to take back to school.

Pre-visit lesson – naming the parts of a plant

Post-visit lesson – recording the growth of seeds in a plant diary

Ready, steady, grow! Fruit and vegetables

Recommended May – October



How wonderful are plants?
What is a vegetable?

Find out which parts of fruit and vegetable plants we eat. Visit the wonderful Fruit and Vegetable gardens at Wisley to explore how our food is produced. Sow some vegetable seeds to take back to school and taste seasonal produce.

Pre-visit lesson – what are fruit and vegetables?
Explore healthy eating ideas and find out about your favourite vegetable

Post-visit lesson – keep a diary to monitor your vegetable seeds growing. Write and draw a set of instructions on how to care for seeds and plants

Sense Sensations

Available all year



Awaken the senses at RHS Garden Wisley! Take a sensory journey through the garden, enjoying a vast array of sights, sounds and textures. Explore the Teaching Garden to smell a variety of herbs, plant a cutting of a 'smelly' plant and taste fruit.

Pre-visit lesson – what are the five senses?

Post-visit lesson – using natural items collected on your visit, create textural collage pictures

Stop! Look and listen: the changing seasons in the garden

Available all year



From autumn leaves to summer flowers, signs of spring to winter hibernation, discover the world around you; why and how it changes throughout the year. Stop, look and listen as you walk around, observing the changes in the garden. Plant and take home your very own seasonal seed or plant to look after and see the changes as it grows!

Pre-visit lesson – find out about the different seasons

Post-visit lesson – make a class book about the seasons

A Home for Robin

Available all year



Can you help Robin find a new place to live? Look around our garden and find out if there is enough food, shelter, nesting materials and friends for a robin. Play a game to find out what Robin needs to survive and collect nest materials to make a nest.

Pre-visit lesson – discover the differences between living and non-living things

Post-visit lesson – explore your grounds at school, would they make a suitable place for birds to live? Make a bird cake to encourage birds into your school grounds

Explore the Glasshouse with Wisley Bear

Available all year – based in the Glasshouse



Become a plant explorer for the day as you join Wisley Bear to investigate the fascinating plants growing in the Glasshouse. Learn exciting facts about the plants, ranging from exotic rainforest foliage to desert cacti. Propagate and take home your own mystery plant.

“I was excited to meet Wisley Bear and finding the interesting plants.”

Pre-visit lesson – what is a rainforest?

Post-visit lesson – tropical leaf art activity

Captivating Colours

Available all year



Whatever time of year you visit RHS Garden Wisley, the garden is alive with colourful flowers and foliage. Explore the garden and match, collect and name colours that you find. Use the plants as a colourful inspiration to create your own art work.

Pre-visit lesson – mixing primary colours; look what happens!

Post-visit lesson – colour mixing; creating your own colours and naming them

A Jungle Journey with Henri Rousseau

Available all year – based in the Glasshouse



Best known for his painting 'Tiger in a Tropical Storm (Surprised!)', much of Rousseau's work is set in a lush jungle environment. Study some of his jungle paintings and discover how Rousseau painted them without leaving Paris! Using the Glasshouse and the tropical plants as inspiration, experience a walk through the rainforest and create stunning jungle artwork.

Pre-visit lesson – investigating leaf shapes

Post-visit lesson – block printing using foliage shapes

Andy Goldsworthy

Available all year round but best suited to autumn



Discover the wonderful work of Andy Goldsworthy, an ephemeral artist whose temporary sculptures are made using natural objects from the environment and are placed so that they form a part of the landscape. Become artists for the day, collecting leaves, twigs and flower petals from around the garden to create your own group sculptures at RHS Garden Wisley.

Don't forget to bring a camera to record your artwork!

Pre-visit lesson	–	introduction to sculpture
Post-visit lesson	–	using a digital camera, take images of leaves collected on your visit and use these to create a new piece of art work on the computer using the Colour Magic programme

William Morris

Available all year



William Morris was a founding member of the Pre-Raphaelite and Arts and Crafts movements; plants and nature inspired his work. Using the gardens for inspiration, observe plants closely and sketch leaf and flower shapes to enable the creation of an amazing class piece of artwork to take back to school!

Pre-visit lesson	–	investigating pattern
Post-visit lesson	–	Art and ICT; scan your line drawings and create your own wallpaper using Colour Magic

Key Stage 2

Key Stage 2 workshops offer the opportunity to explore and extend children's knowledge - bringing learning to life in a varied and stimulating environment



Sowing and growing: the magic of seeds

Available all year



Discover the magic of seeds.....

Just how clever are seeds? Discover the amazing things that seeds do to find a new place to grow. Find out how they get around, by observing and handling some unusual seeds. Dissect a bean seed to find out what's hiding inside! Other activities may include games or a seed dispersal experiment. Plant vegetable seeds to take home.

Pre-visit lesson – the plant life cycle

Post-visit lesson – an ideal place: looking at the best conditions for growth

Ready, steady, grow! All about fruit and vegetables

Available May – October



How important are plants in our daily lives? Take part in a plant treasure hunt to find out which foods and products are made from plants. Explore the Vegetable and Fruit Gardens at Wisley to observe how edible plants are grown and identify which parts of the plant we eat. Taste seasonal produce and plant some vegetable seeds to take home.

Pre-visit lesson – which parts of a vegetable do we eat? Which fruits and vegetables grow in this country?

Post-visit lesson – grow some vegetables at school in pots and containers

Dig for Victory

Available all year



Step back in time and come dressed in 1940's clothes to discover the facts behind the 'Dig for Victory' Campaign. Find out what it was really like to have food shortages and then using products available at the time, bake biscuits using a World War II recipe. Visit the vegetable garden and find out how important it was to grow your own produce. Learn how to dig properly, plant and look after your own garden tools on our 'Dig-it' plot.

Pre-visit lesson – experience an air raid and make a gas mask box to bring on your visit

Post-visit lesson – sow seeds and plant vegetables in a pot or plot at school

Get Growing!

Available all year



Learn the basics of how to sow and grow; becoming a gardener for the day by learning how to use garden tools correctly. Find out how to sow seeds and take cuttings. Discover how to look after the seeds and plants when they begin to grow. Explore the Teaching Garden for inspirational ideas of different ways to grow fruit and vegetables.

Pre-visit idea – how do seeds grow and what do they need to survive?

Post-visit idea – sow some seeds at school and care for a class planter

Delve with Dr Dirt!

Available all year



Dig with Dr Dirt and discover some wonderful things that are happening under your feet! Carry out our 'dirty hands' test to find out about soils. Become a soil 'chef' and collect ingredients from different areas of the garden to concoct your own soil recipe. Then investigate our compost bins to find out for yourselves how it all works!

Explore the underground Root Zone in the Glasshouse to find out further information.

Sow your own seeds to take back to school.

Pre-visit lesson – collect and bring soil samples from your school grounds for investigation

Post-visit lesson – can you remember the difference between a soil and a compost? Make a compost tower and see the composting process in action

Come rain or shine: exploring the weather and climate

Available all year – any weather!



During a tour of the Garden and the Glasshouse, find out about the weather with the aid of data loggers to collect the air and soil temperatures and investigate wind speed and wind direction. Find out how RHS Garden Wisley records the weather at its weather station.

Pre-visit lesson – discuss the difference between weather and climate. Consider how different climates affect both animals and plants

Post-visit lesson – make weather instruments for a school weather station

Andy Goldsworthy

Available all year but best suited to autumn



Discover the wonderful work of Andy Goldsworthy, an ephemeral artist whose temporary sculptures are made using natural objects from the environment and are placed so that they form a part of the landscape. Become artists for the day, collecting leaves, twigs and flower petals from around the garden to create your group sculptures at RHS Garden Wisley.

Don't forget to bring a camera to record your artwork!

Pre-visit lesson – create a 2-D collage made from natural objects

Post-visit lesson – using a digital camera, take images of leaves collected on your visit, then use these to create a new piece of artwork on the computer using Colour Magic

William Morris

Available all year



William Morris was a founding member of the Pre-Raphaelite and Arts and Crafts movements; plants and nature inspired his work. Using the gardens for inspiration, observe plants closely and sketch leaf and flower shapes to enable the creation of amazing pieces of artwork to take back to school!

Pre-visit idea – investigating pattern

Post-visit idea – Art and ICT; scan your line drawings and create your own wallpaper using Colour Magic

A Jungle Journey with Henri Rousseau

Available all year – based in the Glasshouse



Best known for his painting 'Tiger in a Tropical Storm (Surprised!)', much of Rousseau's work is set in a lush jungle environment. You will have the opportunity to study some of his jungle paintings and discover how Rousseau painted them without leaving Paris! Using the Glasshouse and the tropical plants as inspiration, experience the rainforest and create stunning jungle artwork.

Pre-visit lesson – investigating leaf shapes

Post-visit lesson – using sketches from your visit, create your own jungle painting in the style of Rousseau

Plant Explorers

Available all year – based in the Glasshouse



Become a Plant Explorer for the day, discovering the problems that plants need to overcome in rainforest and desert regions. Find out about plant adaptations by exploring the Glasshouse and see for yourself how resourceful these plants have become in adapting to survive hostile conditions. Propagate a cutting from an exotic plant to take home.

Pre-visit lesson – where rainforests are situated and what is the structure of a rainforest canopy?

Post-visit lesson – design an imaginary plant with adaptations to live in a rainforest

Crawly things and creatures with wings: be a minibeast detective

Available in the summer term



Visit the minibeast area to find out where different land minibeasts live, using magnifiers and viewers to examine the creatures carefully. Discover the differences between them and use classification keys to help identify the minibeasts that you have found.

Pre-visit lesson – look at pictures of different minibeasts and predict the habitats where they may live

Post-visit lesson – group minibeasts according to their features. Make a simple key to identify the animals found on their visit. Consider the animals place in food chains

Self-Guided visits

Use the fantastic resource of the garden and explore the wide-ranging habitats from tropical rainforest to desert conditions, the Pinetum to the Rock Garden. Enhance children's learning through cross-curricular themes and areas such as Science, Art, Literacy and Geography, really bringing learning to life.

We have a range of materials and activities for self-guided groups to ensure you get the most out of your visit. These can be viewed and downloaded from our website.

Schools are welcome to book a self-guided visit to the garden. Self-guided visits are free if pre-booked.

To book a self-guided visit, please see guidance on page 18 'How to book' and organise a pre-visit to discuss ideas and activities for your day. There are picnic areas in the garden for self-guided groups to use.

“ All the blossoms were awesome. I loved the deep red, bright pinks and light purples! Wherever I looked is colour! ”

How to book

Booking is essential for all educational groups who would like to visit the garden, either as a self-guided or guided, Education Officer-led visit. We recommend booking your visit well in advance to avoid disappointment, particularly for visits in March, May, June and July when we are busy.

How to book a visit....

Call the Education Team on **01483 212432**, or email: **schools@rhs.org.uk**

Discuss your requirements with a member of the Education team and make a provisional booking. The minimum number for a guided visit with an Education Officer is 15 children with accompanying adults (mainstream schools).

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

Your booking will be made permanent when we receive your completed booking form. Please note that we do not send a letter of confirmation for your visit.

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.

Use the pre and post visit lesson plans available on the RHS website in the learning and education section to support your visit.



RHS Campaign for School Gardening

Supported by **Waitrose**



Become a member of the RHS Campaign for School Gardening, supported by Waitrose and access free resources to help you grow plants and create a garden in your school. Register at **rhs.org.uk/schoolgardening**

Continuing Professional Development courses are held for all adults teaching and inspiring children about plants and gardening. For details of the venues and courses, visit the RHS website **rhs.org.uk/schoolgardening**

For an alternative format of this brochure, please call 020 7821 3000
Textphone 18001 020 7834 4333 or
email: membership@rhs.org.uk

Important and useful information!

Admission

All visits and workshop sessions are free but must be booked in advance; this includes guided and self-guided visits. The RHS is a charity and donations are accepted in lieu of a fee.

Pre-visits

We strongly advise teachers to come to the garden and attend a pre-visit presentation to meet with an Education Officer and discuss your visit requirements. We will send you details of pre-visit presentations along with the booking form and other essential information.

On the day

Coaches are able to park and drop off passengers in the coach parking area; it is then a short walk to the entrance. 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. Please see the information contained in the 'Requirements for school groups' leaflet or accessed through the RHS website: rhs.org.uk

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

We have cloakrooms available to store coats, bags and packed lunches 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 possible.

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 or can be accessed from rhs.org.uk/learning/education/schoolvisits.asp

We will also send our leaflet 'Requirements for School Groups' which includes guidance and responsibilities for leaders.

Access

Please speak to the Education Officers about any special needs or access requirements that you may have. Our gardens are 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.

“Thank you for a great walking guide through the gardens. The children have learnt a lot this morning and so have the staff!”



How to contact us

By post

Learning and Families
RHS Garden Wisley
Woking
Surrey
GU23 6QB

By telephone

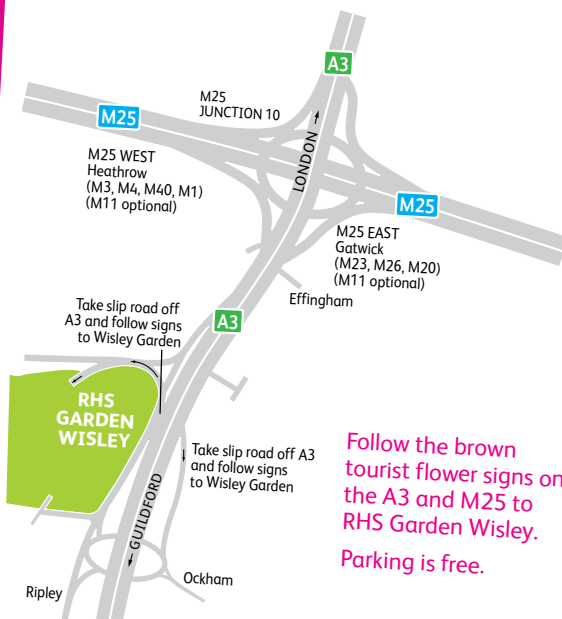
01483 212432

By email

schools@rhs.org.uk

How to find us

The garden lies between Cobham and Ripley in Surrey, off the main London to Portsmouth road (A3) South of Junction 10 off the M25.



Follow the brown tourist flower signs on the A3 and M25 to RHS Garden Wisley. Parking is free.

Photography: Paul Upward, Fiona Secrett and RHS

rhs.org.uk/wisley

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