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GARDENING WITH A MISSION

Growing food and learning about the natural world

Small allotments, big ideas:

- Teaching pupils how to grow food
- Valuing farming and land resources
- Finding joy in nature experiences
- Strengthening community links

Audience and learning context:

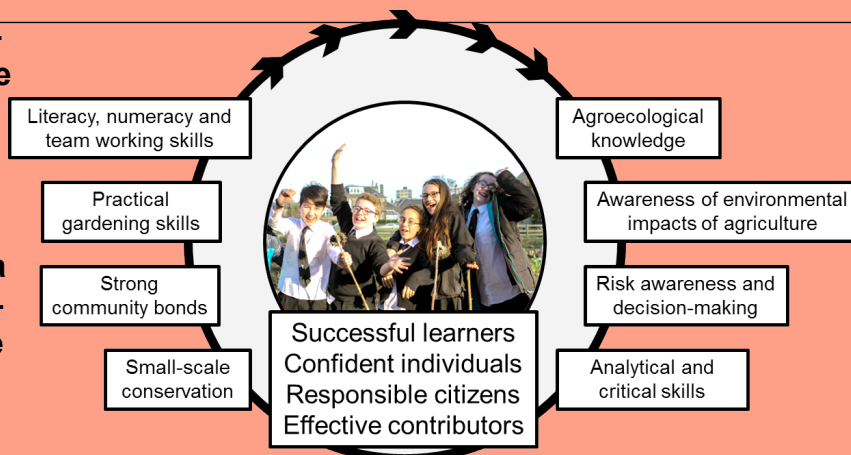
- First year secondary school pupils within the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence
- Gardening Club set up at Trinity Academy
- Presentations, discussions, games, and outdoor gardening

Project outcomes and impact

A gardening club is a wonderful opportunity to achieve interdisciplinary learning. Trinity Academy Gardening Club is designed in a way to complement and enrich the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence. The club has a flexible schedule to accommodate the unpredictable Edinburgh weather. Rainy days are brightened up with exciting indoor presentations, activities and discussions.

Fair weather gives us the opportunity to put all the knowledge we learned indoors in practice, as we start preparing our allotment for the new growing season.

For us, gardening is not simply a way to grow food and meet a basic human need for nutrition. We see gardening as a way to learn more about the natural world, to



Core topics and lesson themes:

- Plant interactions and life cycles
- Environmental impacts of agriculture
- Wildlife-friendly farming as a way to build stronger communities
- Teaching children how to grow food
- Building communities
- Inspiring youth and fostering collaboration
- Empowering teachers to engage pupils with agro-ecology

What's next and what I learned:

My legacy lives in the future work of my bright and enthusiastic pupils. In 2017, they hope to attract more members to Gardening Club and exchange experience with other schools. Through my work I learned the importance of engaging teaching materials that maximise educational benefit and build a diverse set of skills.