

## **Our School Allotments**

*Our allotments give pupils the opportunity to learn that caring for the environment requires patience, effort and commitment - and that the rewards are worth it.*

At Aston Rowant School, our allotments play a vital role in Eco Enrichment, providing pupils with regular opportunities to learn through growing, digging and caring for the natural environment. The allotments are a living classroom where pupils develop practical skills, environmental awareness and a strong sense of responsibility.

### **Learning by Growing**

Through working on the allotments, pupils are actively involved in:

- Digging and preparing the soil
- Planting seeds, bulbs and young plants
- Watering, weeding and ongoing care
- Observing changes over time

These hands-on experiences help pupils understand where food comes from and appreciate the effort and patience required to grow plants successfully.

### **Responsibility and Teamwork**

Each class or group takes part in caring for the allotment areas, encouraging pupils to:

- Work collaboratively towards shared goals
- Take responsibility for maintaining plants and plots
- Understand that regular care leads to success
- Feel pride in contributing to a shared project

Pupils quickly learn that the allotments require commitment and teamwork, reinforcing important life skills such as perseverance and cooperation.

### **Curriculum and Eco Awareness**

The allotments provide meaningful links across the curriculum, including:

- **Science** – plant life cycles, growth and seasonal change
- **Geography** – weather patterns, sustainability and land use
- **PSHE and Personal Development** – responsibility, wellbeing and healthy choices

Working outdoors supports curiosity, enquiry and problem-solving, while developing pupils' respect for the environment.

### **Wellbeing and Connection to Nature**

Time spent on the allotments supports pupils' wellbeing by:

- Providing opportunities for outdoor learning and physical activity
- Encouraging calm focus and mindfulness through purposeful tasks
- Helping pupils feel connected to nature

Many pupils find allotment sessions rewarding and motivating, boosting confidence and engagement.

### **Sustainability in Action**

Our allotments help pupils understand sustainability by:

- Encouraging care for soil, plants and resources
- Promoting respect for living things
- Reinforcing the importance of looking after shared environments
- Demonstrating how small actions can have long-term impact

Pupils see clearly that nurturing the environment benefits both people and wildlife.

### **Impact on Pupils**

As a result of working on the allotments, pupils:

- Show increased awareness of food, growth and the environment
- Demonstrate pride in caring for plants and shared spaces
- Develop patience, responsibility and independence
- Apply learning to conversations about sustainability at school and at home

The allotments are an ongoing project, ensuring learning is sustained and embedded over time rather than being a one-off experience.

The allotments provide strong evidence for:

- Personal Development – responsibility, resilience, wellbeing and teamwork
- Behaviour and Attitudes – respect for shared spaces and purposeful engagement
- Eco Enrichment – sustainability, biodiversity and environmental care
- Curriculum Impact – applied learning beyond the classroom
- SMSC Development – appreciation of the natural world and collective responsibility

