

Planning your allotment



Suggested 2/3 lessons

When planning your allotment you need to consider who will do the following jobs:

- Write the specific risk assessment for your school and pupils
- Be in charge of choosing the final design (see these websites for useful information)
<http://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profiles0304/allotment.asp>
<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/growingschools/support>
- Clear the land and prepare it for digging
- Maintain the allotment throughout the year, including school holidays
- Manage the budget, purchase equipment, etc

You will need:

- Space
- Somewhere to dig is not essential, many plants will grow well in pots

Your design needs to consider:

- Distance from classrooms
- Hand-washing facilities/toilets
- Access to water/water collection
- Storage of tools
- Security eg fencing of the site
- Paths/access to growing area
- Seating
- Weather protection from the sun and rain
- What crops you want to grow bearing in mind crop rotation needs, and the conditions they need eg shaded areas

How much is it likely to cost?

The biggest expense in creating an allotment is likely to be the tools. You will also need time to prepare the allotment – asking parents or friends to help is a great way to get them involved with the school, you may also find an appeal for tools fruitful. Additionally you will need seeds, compost and, if you do not have space at school, you will need to hire an allotment costing in the region of £25 for a year.

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All pupils will: Describe a place the allotment should go eg with water and soil. Measure the allotment space and design their own allotment.

Most pupils will: Calculate the bed size based on arm reach and draw in magnetic North.

A few pupils will: Calculate the scale of the allotment to their plan, plot bedding locations accurately and note sunny and shaded spots.

- You will need:**
- A measuring tape or wheel
 - A Compass
 - Scissors
 - Graph or squared paper

Pupil Activity	Learning outcome	Teacher input
What is an allotment, where should it go?	Speaking and listening skills	Lead discussion eg can we dig on the football pitch?
In groups measure the space for your allotment and distance from buildings, fences, etc	Cooperation, working in groups. Reading the measuring tape accurately.	Have decided on location. Check pupils measurements.
Use a compass to find North and note areas of shade on rough paper	Understand that the sun moves and is not static. Manual dexterity.	Teach that the sun rises in the East, sets in the West. Check pupils have sunshine cards in the correct order
In groups measure the length of each persons' arm from their wrist to their armpit	Working together, appreciating each other	Explain link between arm length and reach. Average class reach to calculate the bed size.
Draw scale on paper	Realise what a scale is for	Calculate scale of allotment. 1:50 may be suitable. Why is a scale important?
Draw your allotment design	Creativity and consolidation	

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Put the drawings of the sun's movement across the sky in to the correct order. Colour in the shaded area in each picture.

