



Case study

Eastfield Primary School

Schools' Challenge - Creating A School Farm

John Litchfield





CS

Case study

Schools' Challenge - Creating A School Farm



Specialist Schools
and Academies Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY

Background

There were 205 pupils aged 5-11 years who took part in the challenge. Eastfield Primary school is located on the outskirts of Leicester City and the pupils are from a varied catchment area with a high proportion of deprived households. The school has large grounds that include two fields, and a teaching staff who are committed to improving the lives of the children they teach.

The project

1. What were you trying to achieve for your learners through the curriculum?

- To improve pupils understanding of where their food comes from
- To develop a healthier lifestyle by thinking about the food they eat and how it is produced
- To give pupils who are not academic a real purpose and responsibility in school by enabling them to gain an interest in farming and the farming industry
- To help pupils understand animal welfare and the role of farming in society today
- To bring the community into school through parental and community help



2. How did you organise the learning to achieve your aims for learners?

All classes in school are allocated duties on the farm; the KS2 children care for the larger animals each day while the KS1 and foundation stage children care for the chickens, ducks and rabbits.

The school also changed to a topic-based curriculum. This gives each class the ability to incorporate the farm into all areas of learning. Each area of the curriculum was taught outside during the Year of Food and Farming demonstrating the value of farms as a resource for learning outside the classroom:

- **Numeracy**
 - Area of pens
 - Weight of food, rate of feeding, size of animals, cost of food to dead weight
 - Counting in KS1 and FS
 - Estimating the number of eggs



Case study CS Schools' Challenge - Creating A School Farm

- **Literacy**
 - Creative writing
 - Poems
 - Newspaper reports
 - Instructional writing
- **ICT**
 - Filming the animals for TV broadcasts
 - Spreadsheets of food costs
 - Sound recordings in KS1 and FS
 - Posters
 - Leaflets
 - Care instructions
- **Science**
 - Growth and birth
 - Life cycles
 - Microorganisms
- **PSHE**
 - Care of animals
- **Geography**
 - Comparing farms in different countries
- **History**
 - WW2 and food production
- **Art and Design**
 - Landscapes
 - Modeling with clay
 - Patterns in nature



3. How well are you achieving your aims?

The school has successfully provided KS1 and KS2 pupils with areas to grow vegetables, herbs and flowers. Eastfield received an 'Awards for All' grant to fund the set up and running of the school farm for one year. The farm homes a variety of animals including chickens, rabbits, ducks, pigs and sheep. Every child was able to watch the sheep being sheared and when the pigs went to slaughter the meat was sold to parents and members of the local community.



Case study CS Schools' Challenge - Creating A School Farm

The sale of eggs and produce from the gardens helps to pay for food for the animals on the farm. The school held an Autumn Fete to raise money for the farm as well. Companies, farms, suppliers and individuals donate time, experience, money and resources that help to support the farm and growing areas.

The children have a better understanding of where their food comes from as a result of taking part in growing activities and their active involvement in running the school farm. All the children have taken ownership of the school farm and the animals. They are very proud of it, as are their parents. Since the children have been taking part in food and farming activities staff have noticed that in a number of cases lunchboxes include healthier options. The project has increased community engagement with the school as they are interested in the workings of the school farm.

4. What does the school plan to do next?

- To continue using the school's farm and growing areas as a teaching and learning resource informing pupils about where food comes from and about healthy eating
- To develop the farm and growing areas even further by working with more partners and sustaining community involvement
- To continue with fund raising activities in order to keep the farm operational for years to come.
- To host more farm visits for other schools to gain first hand experience of food and farming

