



WINDMILL COMMUNITY GARDENS
MARGATE



School Sessions

Workshop offer

About Windmill Community Gardens Margate

As a working community garden in the heart of Margate we are striving to provide space for the whole community to enjoy. We were established more than 20 years ago on the site of derelict wasteland allotments after local families requested “somewhere safe to grow food with their children”.



We provide regular sessions throughout the year for families, have a weekly garden club for our volunteers, offer space for work experience and are available as a site to hire, all alongside growing a wide range of seasonal fruit and veg across our two sites.

We are an inclusive site with a wheelchair accessible toilet and hard paths through the majority of our garden. If you or your group have any specific needs we would welcome you to visit to see our space and what is available.

What we offer

We can offer a range of sessions for schools that fulfill curriculum objectives around growing, healthy eating and science as well as making cross-curricular connections to a whole variety of subjects, be it symmetry, descriptive language or social and emotional development through building resilience and working as a team.

Our team has a wealth of experience providing stimulating and inclusive outdoor education, and includes an experienced primary school teacher and qualified Forest School teachers.

We have standard sessions you can book onto or we can work with you to provide a bespoke session tailored to your curriculum needs. This can be as a one off session or a block of regular session. Our prices start from £30 for an hour long session, but as a community space it is important we are accessible, so if finances are a barrier please get in touch and we will do what we can.

Curriculum links:

- Working scientifically
- Plants
- Animals, including humans
- Seasonal changes (we welcome repeat visits to observe the difference!)
- Living things and their habitats
- Everyday materials
- Key skills across other areas such as descriptive language development, maths skills, social and emotional development.





PLANT FOCUS

This session will focus on planting and growing at Windmill.

Each session will include the following two key elements, along with a focus activity of your choice. The focus activities offer a range of engaging options that can be adapted to suit the session length and may be combined for extended visits:

- A tour of the garden to introduce our project and explore what's currently growing. Depending on the season and what's available, this may also include sensory experiences or tasting opportunities.
- Themed, child-led learning using our tuff trays, offering hands-on exploration that complements the guided activities.

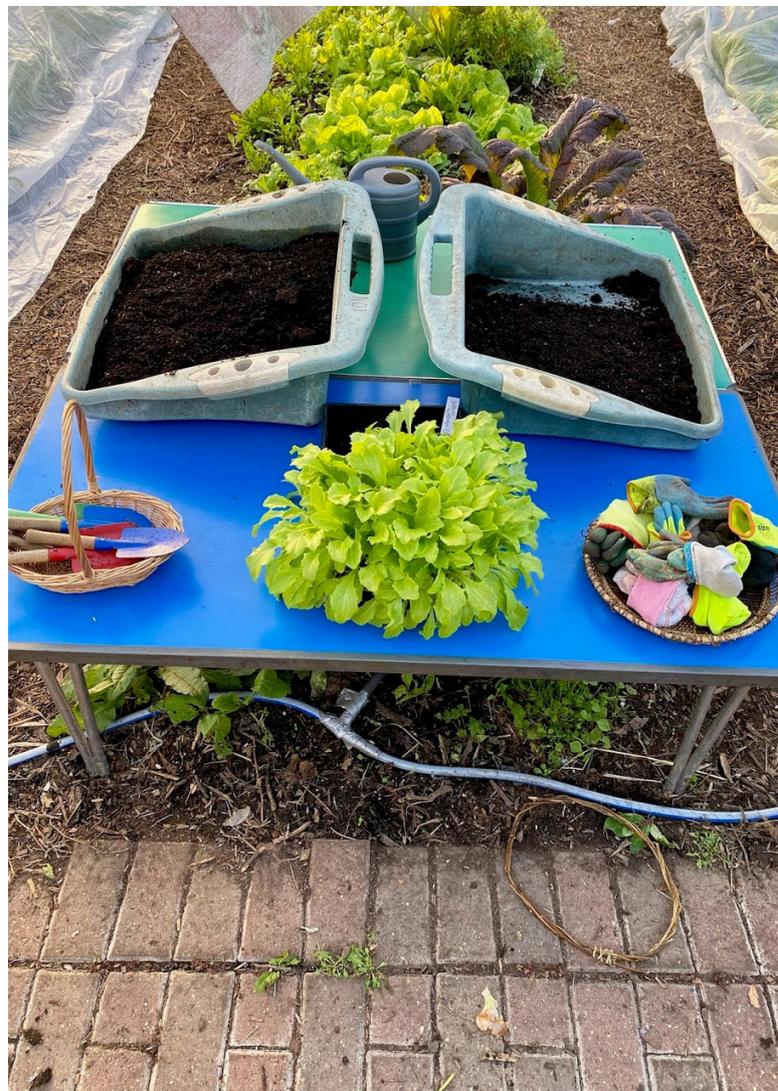
Focus activity:

Growing – propagate a plant from a cutting to take home, make a bean jar/bag to take home for observation or repot a seedling

Plant parts and life cycles – look at and label plant parts as a group and create a collage. Observation of plant specimens to produce individual drawings.

Seed dispersal – look at and investigate how seeds are dispersed; make a paper gyrocopter, play the velcro game, make a seedy snack

Plant art – make nature paintbrushes and collaborative nature art, create a beautiful small group mandala, make a textile piece using plant bashing to leave nature prints.





Bug's Life

This session will focus on the mini-beasts at Windmill.

Each session will include the following two core components, along with a focus activity of your choice. The focus activities offer a range of options that can be tailored to suit each session and may also be combined for longer visits:

- A guided tour of the garden, introducing our project and featuring a “big bug hunt” to discover some of our smallest residents.
- Themed, child-led exploration using our tuff trays, which provide hands-on learning opportunities alongside the guided elements.

Focus activity:

Insects 101 – What makes an insect an insect? Explore what habitats makes insects thrive and make a bug pot to take home.



Pollinators – learn how pollen travels through games and observation, and make a pollinator sculpture to take home (dragonfly willow sculpture, symmetry butterfly, clothes peg bees)



Arachnids – Learn about our 8-legged friends and the role they play in the garden. Play some spider themed games (stick the legs on the spider, the web game) and make a stick and twine web and conker spider.



Ants – make an ant's nest, play the queen game, learn about pheromones and ant conversations.

Protection – camouflage, smells and pincers. How do minibeasts protect themselves? Make a shield pattern, play the camouflage game, make a stink potion, play the red light green light of protection.



Wrigglers – Explore our wormery on site and learn all about slugs, snails and worms in the garden. Make a worm habitat.



Food webs and chains – using examples of common food chains in our garden we will make a web, play the chain game, and create a flip book of who eats who.

Life cycles – explore lifecycles of some our garden residents using a range of resources, and pass the lifecycle baton game. Meet some of our creatures in different stages (pond or insect but will be seasonally dependent).



Field to Fork

An ever changing seasonal session which adapts to what's currently available and happening in the gardens

Involves a gardening activity, a cooking activity and associated craft (where time permits)

Previous sessions have included:

Weeds - learn why we weed, whilst getting hands on with the weeding, find out what's good and bad about weeds in the gardens, forage some edible weeds and make a delicious weed soup or some seasonal drinks

Herbs - look at a platter of different herbs, identify some and explore their sensory smells. Propagate a small herb pot to take home make a sage butter pasta, and create a sage bundle for Scottish Saining

Potatoes – Learn about food miles. Earth up the potatoes and learn why, make a delicious potato salad and make your own potato print cards

Summer Fruits – harvest the fruits that are available, discuss food waste and measure the exact amount for each person as they go, make a fruit fool, whipping cream and yoghurt with the hand mixer and cooking gooseberries, make an air dry clay fig leaf bowl.

Alliums – Plant leeks, learn how to puddle them in and why, cook a Sri Lankan leek and onion dish. make a pompom chive flower

Flowers – Dead head the flowers in the garden and find out why we do, choose flowers and find out principles of floristry; thrillers, spillers and fillers. Cook some artichoke heads over the Prakti, some broccoli and cauliflower florets or courgette flowers (depending on what's available). make a side salad with some of our other edible flowers.

Three Sisters – Find out about this ancient system and how they grow together. Harvest beans, a squash and find out how to tell if the corn is ready, weed if needed. Cook a stir fry dish with all three; squash, corn and beans. Learn how to chop corn successfully. Make a beautiful rosette style flower with the corn husks.



