

LEARNING TO GROW FOOD

Aspects for judging 2024

The competition will focus on the role of pollinators and pollination in producing the fruit and vegetables that we grow and eat:

- what pollinators are and the range that exist in our surroundings
- why pollination is crucial for the successful growing of food to eat
- pollinators' roles in food plant production
- how pollinators can be attracted to food crops and the effects of growing companion plants
- the impact on food production if pollination fails.

Just to remind you that judging will take place week beginning 8 July. We shall use the discussions with the children on our visit and the logs to focus on four key aspects that arise from the brief, taking account of the children's and students' ages and abilities and which have influenced the choice of learning activities.

- developing knowledge and understanding
- applying knowledge and understanding
- recording and evaluating
- preparing, cooking and eating

The following chart sets out how we intend to use the logs and our discussions with the children to decide on the prize winners for each of the two categories. It is important that all four of the key aspects form part of the activities and the log.

Key aspect	EXAMPLES of key points
Developing knowledge and understanding	• what pollinators are and name and identify those that are most common in our local environment
	• name and identify less common pollinators
	• what plants pollinators visit and whether these plants have any characteristics in common
	• what pollinators do to transfer pollen from one plant to another and why this is important
	• conditions that pollinators need in the environment to multiply and maintain a

	healthy balance
	• impact of fewer pollinators and sources of pollen on food crop production
	• conditions needed for effective pollination of food crops to ensure maximum yields
	• the importance of living sustainable lives to safeguard the environment, its plants and the food supply.
Applying knowledge and understanding	• identifying problems when growing plants from seeds, both for food and as companion plants, to encourage pollinators to visit the food crops
	• working out possible ways of solving such problems, including drawing up hypotheses and testing out ideas to see if they work
	• investigating whether/how seeds grown for food can be cultivated in environmentally-friendly ways, including those that protect and support pollinators
	• considering possible ways of producing and growing seeds for food commercially in a sustainable way,
Recording and evaluating	• recording activities, results and outcomes in different ways - progress from sowing seeds through to eating the final food product
	• choosing how to record results for greatest clarity and to help develop their own understanding and that of others
	• presenting results drawing on a wider but effective range of skills and techniques
Preparing, cooking and eating	• using beans and peas to give variety to the diet
	• preparing peas and beans appropriately and safely to ensure they are safe to eat
	• preparing, cooking and serving peas and beans in meals and snacks
	• knowing how vegetables, especially pulses like peas and beans, contribute to a healthy diet