

Pumpkin Garden Competition 2020

How will the competition Work?

All schools in the city will be given the opportunity to participate in the competition.

This is a brand new competition and replaces the previous sunflower growing competition.

Each school participating in the competition will be provided with the same selection of pumpkin and squash seeds and a downloadable guide explaining how to grow pumpkins and squash. It is intended that the plants are started off in class and then grown in the school grounds in a designated area.

In October 2020, schools will be asked to submit a selection of photos and a brief report (which can be done by the students) of their garden. The report template is provided as part of the downloadable guide. As part of the competition you are encouraged to design the garden on a theme of your choice.

The winner of the competition will be the schools that has produced the most creative garden as well as how well the produce grew, as judged by a panel of growers.

There will be prizes for first, second and third place.

As part of the competition we will be providing information about composting and recipes with support from Carryoncomposting.com

Book your school's place via [SurveyMonkey](https://www.surveymonkey.com) as soon as possible to confirm. Any questions please email GrowYourOwnGrub@Leicester.gov.uk. Please sign up no later than Friday 28 February 2020.



Grow Your Grub Competition 2020

How will the competition work?

As last year, we have expanded the competition to all schools. Schools participate by creating a 'mealbarrow', so even if you don't have a designated growing area you can still enter.

Schools are asked to attend a training session on **Thursday 12 March 2020** at Graceworks, URC, The Common, Leicester LE5 6EA, from 4.30-5.00pm. You will also collect your compost (and wheelbarrow if you don't already have one) at this point.

The Mealbarrow competition is a great way to involve the wider school community in your growing activities. Grandparent and community gardening week is on the **27 April to 1 May 2020**. If you go to the Food for Life website www.foodforlife.org.uk you can register your intergenerational event, receive free resources and if you come along to the training on 12 March 2020, you will find out about available grants to help with this exciting project.

The competition consists of two parts:

The Mealbarrow

Stage 1: Your school needs to produce a menu for a three-course meal. The choice of dishes can be as diverse as you like and include all food groups (e.g. fish, meat etc) as well as fruit and vegetables. We would recommend using the [Eatwell Guide](#) to help plan your menu. The menu will be judged on:

- Presentation,
- Nutritional value
- Creativity and appeal

Completed menus will need to be sent to GrowYourOwnGrub@leicester.gov.uk by **Wednesday 20 May 2020** as judging will take place on Thursday 21 May 2020. These can be hand-written and scanned or typed. A template will be provided and example of menus can be found on the [schools extranet](#).

Stage 2: The school will be expected to grow a minimum of 5 items that have been included in their menu in their wheelbarrow. These can be vegetables, salad crops, fruits, herbs or cereals. All of the crops should be grown within the mealbarrow. However, we also encourage schools to grow more of the same crops or different crops in their own 'extended' growing area (if available).

During the week 8-12 June 2020, the judges will visit the school and assess the mealbarrow and growing area against the following criteria:

- The condition of the crop
- The use of environmentally friendly growing methods
- Innovation
- Presentation of the mealbarrow

As crops are harvested at different times, the judges will be taking this into consideration and will be assessing the condition of the plants at the time of judging.

The school is not expected to cook the meal as part of the competition.

Schools are then invited to bring their wheelbarrow to Abbey Pumping Station on **Friday 3 July 2020 (between 12noon and 4pm)** or between 11-12noon on Saturday 4 July 2020 to showcase

their produce on the open day of **Saturday 4 July 2020** (barrows between 12-3pm). We are able to support schools to apply for financial support which would include a company collecting and returning the wheelbarrow (information will be provided at the training in March 2020).

If you are unable to bring the wheelbarrow, we can accept a photo and description which will be displayed along with the physical mealbarrows – however we'd love to see the mealbarrow.

The results of the menu and wheelbarrow visit will be combined to generate half of the score. The other half will be obtained from the showcase event taking place at Abbey Pumping Station. The general public will be invited to vote on their favourite. We're encouraging you to promote to school family and friends to come along and support you! Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third.

The winning school overall will host a fantastic celebration assembly. This will take place early in the new academic year.

Extended growing area

Schools will also independently receive bronze, silver and gold for the quality of their growing area. Winners will be announced before the end of term and awards presented in the new academic year. The judges will visit the school and assess the growing area against the following criteria:

- The condition of the crop in both
- The use of environmentally friendly growing methods including composting
- Innovation
- Presentation of the site and wheelbarrow
- How the garden/growing area has been integrated into the school curriculum and actively engaging parents and/or the wider community in growing and cooking activities

The deadline for entries is **Friday 28 February 2020** and will be filled on a first come basis. Book your school's place via [SurveyMonkey](#) as soon as possible to confirm. Any questions please email GrowYourOwnGrub@Leicester.gov.uk

