

Social Farms
& Gardens



Growing Teachers

Helping you to
help your school grow

About Growing Teachers

Growing Teachers is about inspiring, supporting and empowering teachers, support staff, independent practitioners and volunteers to develop and run a school growing and/ or farming project successfully and sustainably.

Whether you are breaking new ground in your school or seeking to grow an established school project, this programme offers a complete approach to the subject suitable for everyone from novice to experienced practitioner.

We are delighted to launch our first course in the UK using a blended learning approach.

The learning combines educational materials and opportunities for interaction online with traditional online classroom methods. This is combined with assignments personalised to your own project which lets you work on your own and involves visits to other school and community gardens/farms and with other learners and mentors.

The Growing Teachers Training Course is delivered over ten weeks at the start of the spring growing season. Each week focuses on a different aspect of using plants or animals in schools to deliver key academic or pastoral outcomes.

We use a 2 hour interactive webinar per week, with presentations, discussions and activities, plus up to 2 hours independent study completing assignments based on planning and progressing your own project.

Key Information

- Cost £199/€225 to cover 10 weeks of blended learning.
- Fees must be paid in advance at the start of the course.
- This course is for adults only and you must be 18 years or older.
- You will need to be involved either with a school managed garden or farm and/or demonstrate you have some knowledge or understanding of these kinds of outdoor spaces.
- The course will include 10 taught sessions on Tuesdays (16.00 – 18.00 UK time) starting on 23rd February 2021 and concluding on 11th May.
- There will be a 3 week break from 6th- 20th April.

Learners will need to attend all online sessions weekly which will run for an average of 2 hours a week as well as undertake additional work for another 2 hours a week, each week, in their own time in order to complete the assignments. In total there will be 20 hours of online classroom work, 20 hours of working outside of the online classroom and additional hours for visiting other projects.





What the course covers

- The case for farming and gardening in schools from a practitioner's and an Ofsted perspective.
- Delivery of academic and pastoral outcomes.
- Supporting behaviour, wellbeing and mental health.
- Planning and designing your project, risk assessments and health and safety, sustaining your project and meeting challenges.
- Fundraising and time management.
- Engaging stakeholders including senior leadership and governing bodies; working with staff, parents and volunteers; safeguarding.
- Term time growing, creative approaches to land- based learning and sustainable growing and farming including permaculture and organic methods, composting, cross-curricular links, sensory gardens and tranquil spaces; wildlife and conservation.
- Small animals, poultry and livestock both in school and working with external settings and organisations. Animal-assisted activities and therapy.

Applying

The course is open to teaching staff, practitioners and volunteers across the UK and an online application form must be filled out to register your interest by 31st January 2021.

This is the first of what we hope will be many courses in the future both online and in a classroom setting. We anticipate high volumes of applicants and won't be able to guarantee all applicants a place on the course. Please give us as much information as you can about yourself and your interest in Growing Teachers.

Applicants will be notified if they have gained a place by the 10th February Payment for the course will need to be received before the 17th February to secure your place. In order to apply click on this link:

[Link to application form](#)

Find out more

This training is being delivered by Social Farms & Gardens – the UK wide charity supporting communities to farm, garden and grow together. Social Farms & Gardens has been delivering quality training to our members for 40 years and are currently undergoing assessment to become accredited training providers with the British Accreditation Council.



Course tutor Keeley Smith is assistant CEO of the Gloverspiece Minifarm Group, overseeing a care farm, animal sanctuary, college and SEN school. She is a qualified secondary English teacher and has been teaching land- based science for many years, as well as managing an award- winning school farm. She planned and implemented over 100 growing and farming projects in schools through the Growing Schools programme and has been delivering CPD on the subject for many years.



Course founder Heidi Seary is the Operations Manager at SF&G and runs and manages many courses for SF&G including Gardeniser Pro, the European ECVET framework training program.

SF&G developed the Growing Schools programme and the School Farms Network to support schools in keeping livestock and delivering land- based learning. We also developed the Get Your Hands Dirty resource pack to support schools in everything from pots and planters to cattle and tractors!

Find out more about SF&G [here](#) and School Farms Network [here](#).

