**Ofsted Outstanding**

“There is a significant link between food growing and performance in Ofsted inspections, for example Ofsted reports were “more than twice as likely to give FFLP Flagship primary schools a rating of ‘outstanding’ across 10 criteria for inspection compared to the period before programme enrolment.”

Food Growing In Schools Taskforce Main Report March 2012 [**Read the full report**](http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/organicgardening/food-growing-in-schools.php)

**In a full inspection of the school farm as part of a general Ofsted inspection of Thomas Alleyne’s Uttoxeter Ofsted** identified **five** examples of outstanding practice within the school; **four** of these were for the school farm.

‘Most importantly, the farm provides excellent opportunities for students' personal development. For example, students learn the importance of routine and the need for commitment when caring for animals; they learn to work in a team. Many regularly appear at lunchtime and after school to deal with feeding and mucking out. Students also develop confidence and self esteem as they see their plants growing successfully and their animals flourishing.”

“The major function of the school farm is to provide facilities for courses in: GCSE rural science, NVQ agriculture and GCSE, AS and A level environmental science. Hence the farm enables the school to offer its very wide range of curricular opportunities in Years 10 to 13. However, the importance of the farm to the school extends well beyond the bounds of the curriculum. It provides an opportunity outside lessons for those who wish to work in agriculture and horticulture, or even veterinay science, to practise the skills that will be required.”

“The school does not regard the farm as simply a facility for its own students but makes it available to visiting students from other schools in the area. Students from a local special school, on a regular visit to the farm, used results from earlier exercises in weighing pigs to draw graphs to demonstrate gains in weight.”

“The leadership of the school must take great credit for preserving the farm through an era when, nationally, the whole emphasis in Years 10 and 11 was on the specified National Curriculum. Many schools found that additional options, including such subjects as rural science, could no longer be offered; extra resources like farms and gardens could no longer be justified or afforded. This school, however, clung to its farm. Now the importance of vocational subjects is being recognised, courses are springing up across the country and this school already has the resources that it needs to support a range of vocational courses that are particularly relevant to students in a rural area.” [**Read the full report**](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/124430)**.**

**The school farm featured significantly in the 2012 Ofsted for Edwalton Primary School, Nottingham.**

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| ‘Good teaching is found in all parts of the school. Classrooms, both inside and the many outdoors in the school’s own woodland, are well resourced and inspire pupils’ curiosity about the world around them. Respect for the environment and for each other pervades all of the school’s work.” |
| “Their very good manners and politeness, their willingness to provide a helping hand (even on Christmas day with the animals on the school farm) and their wonderfully sunny demeanours give the school a very distinctive atmosphere.” | |

Their understanding of the natural world is remarkable, and enhanced by growing and eating their own vegetables, harvesting and marketing honey from the school’s beehives and caring for the farm animals. Parents and carers confirm this view. Attendance is consistently above average because, as pupils say, ‘This is such a nice place to be’.

“The school is the Eco-hub for 32 other schools locally, in Africa and in New Zealand. These links give pupils a true understanding of the word ‘community’.” [**Read the full report**](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/122601)

**Oathall Community College, Hayward’s Heath, West Sussex**

“The farm is a centre of excellence for the college, the local community and for schools nationally and internationally. It provides memorable experiences and cross-curricular learning, generates an impressive network of partnerships, makes community cohesion an exceptionally strong and working reality and motivates students, including those otherwise at risk of dropping out of education. One student's response was typical: 'I wasn't very academic but now that I work on the farm I have come to love science and other subjects because I need them to complete my dream.' Hands-on farm experience also develops students' environmental awareness and contributes to their excellent understanding of the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Farm-based projects are among the ways in which students make an outstanding contribution to their local community.”

“The award-winning farm dramatically enhances students' learning and personal development and raises Oathall's profile both locally and nationally.” [**Read the full report**](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/126085)