

Linking the Garden & Curriculum

A significant amount of learning can take place in the garden across all curriculum areas also contributing to the development of a range of verbal, leadership and social skills.

(Passey et al, 2010 p. 46).

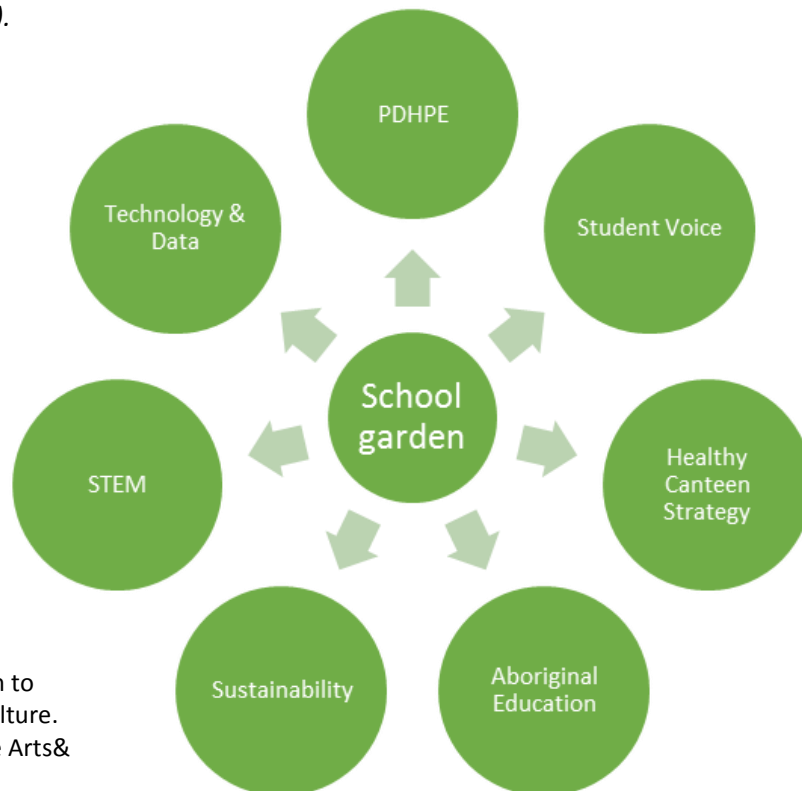


Figure 1:

Linking the school garden to school curriculum and culture. Also Geography, Creative Arts & Well-being.

Resources

STEM

- Create lesson activities that support real-world learning and problem solving scenarios. e.g. Stage 3 STEM school project ideas: www.stem-nsw.com.au/teaching-stem/stage-3-stem-projects.
- NSW Department of Primary Industries School Program: www.nswdpi-schools-program.com/investigate
- Design and production processes, and links to physical activity, healthy eating and personal wellbeing. Supports Living World (Science) and Healthy Safe and Active Lifestyle strands (PDHPE). Links to the curriculum priority of sustainability. -> Search 'A Patch from Scratch' at education.nsw.gov.au
- Growing Food Curriculum kit: Search 'Growing Food' at www.education.sa.gov.au
- Outdoor learning and nature play lesson plans: www.natureplayqld.org.au/education/lesson-plans
- Science digibooks for the classroom -> education.abc.net.au/home#!/home

PDHPE

- The new PDHPE curriculum encourages schools to use a strength based, critical inquiry approach that promotes lifelong health and wellbeing. The garden is a valuable learning environment to use to help promote healthy, safe and active lifestyles in our students: See the 'Kitchen gardening for sustainability and wellbeing K-6' resource at education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/sustainability/teaching-and-learning/kitchen-gardens

Wellbeing

- The school garden is an excellent example of a wellbeing approach in action. See the studentwellbeinghub.edu.au for lesson ideas and links to wellbeing.

Sustainability

- Sustainability is a cross-curriculum priority within the Australian Curriculum. Students are provided with opportunities to develop sustainable practices in the school garden:
 - See the 'Kitchen gardening for sustainability and wellbeing K-6' resource at [education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/sustainability/teaching-and-learning/kitchen-gardens](https://www.education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/sustainability/teaching-and-learning/kitchen-gardens)
 - www.sustainabilityinschools.edu.au
 - Search 'Sustainability Resources' at www.education.nsw.gov.au
 - Planet Ark: planetark.org
 - Cool Australia: www.coolaustralia.org/
 - Northern Beaches Council programs and free film screenings and shows: www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/services/rubbish-and-recycling/school-education
www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/services/children/teachers-hub

Aboriginal Education

- Bush tucker gardens and studies of Aboriginal culture within the school garden provide an opportunity to learn more about Aboriginal traditions, culture and environments and addresses this cross-curriculum priority: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/funding-and-support/nsw-environmental-trust/grants-available/eco-schools/eco-schools-gardens
- Contact local Aboriginal Heritage Office: info@aboriginalheritage.org
- Bush tucker gardens: www.indigigrow.com.au/about

School Canteen

- Involve your school canteen in the garden and learn about foods in the canteen: Search 'School Gardens' at www.healthy-kids.com.au

Student Voice/Leadership Groups

- Using a Student Voice approach in the school garden ensures students are active participants in promoting wellbeing and sustainability at their school and influencing change. Leadership projects can include instigating [waste free lunches](http://www.nudefoodday.com.au) (e.g. www.nudefoodday.com.au), rostering garden maintenance, marketing and selling produce. Your local council may be able to assist.

Technology & Data

- Students can record the garden stages from growth to rainfall and create apps or digital representations to roster garden volunteers, sell produce, stock take and graph plant growth.

Other Ideas

Preparing Garden Produce:

- Preparing garden produce KidsGrowKidsCook: www.healthy-kids.com.au/teachers/kitchen-garden/
- Non-cooking ideas and recipes for using your harvest: Visit Live Life Well @ School resources at www.nshealthpromotion.com.au

School Garden Grants:

- Search 'Eco Schools' at www.environment.nsw.gov.au
- Search 'Junior Landcare' grants at: www.landcareaustralia.org.au

Competitions:

- STEM competition and classroom lesson resources: www.nswdpi-schools-program.com/investigate
- Search The Great Backyard Pumpkin Challenge: at www.rasns.com.au



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