

GERALD DOWLE SCHOOLS' CHALLENGE SHIELD 2026

POLLINATOR PATCH - FOOD FOR ALL

Open to all local primary schools – free entry!

£30 total prize money, shield & rosettes awarded at the Autumn Show



Design a pollinator-friendly vegetable patch. Your garden may include vegetables, fruit, herbs, flowers and/ or other plants. As well as providing fresh food for you to eat, your patch should help to support a wide range of pollinators.

You may wish to include additional features that are beneficial for the environment. For example, water butts, rain catchers, compost bins, wormeries, bug hotels, log piles and/or bird feeders.

There is no size restriction on the size of your patch - it could be your whole school garden or just a single raised bed or large planter.

BGS Summer Show - Saturday 15th August– Display of plans and photographs

Display photographs, plans, sketches, and/ or other information about your pollinator patch.

BGS Autumn Show – Saturday 31st October - Display of produce and judging

Create an attractive display of produce harvested from your pollinator patch - fruit, vegetables, herbs, flowers and/or seedheads.

Your produce should be displayed in one or more trugs, trays, vases, or jugs.

You may also want to include examples, or photographs, of the additional features that you have included in your patch, for example, a bug hotel.

Goal:

Encourage pupils to think about biodiversity, sustainable gardening, food growing, and nature-friendly design.

Eligible Students:

KS1 and KS2 pupils (5–11 years old).

Submission Limit:

Your school may submit either

- a single entry
- or two entries: 'Year 2 and under' and 'Year 3 and over'.

Entry Deadline:

6th August 2026 See below for entry form.

Curriculum Links:

This project can support learning in:

- Science: plants, pollination, ecosystems, seasonal changes
- Art and Design: sketching, visual design, labelling
- Geography: climate, land use, sustainability
- PSHE: teamwork, health and wellbeing, responsibility

Activity Ideas

- **Garden Design Workshop**
 - Discuss what plants to grow. (You might want to avoid growing plants that will require a lot of watering or harvesting during the summer holidays.)
 - What fruit, vegetables and herbs do you like to eat? [What Fruit and Veg is in Season? A Month-by-Month Guide | BBC Gardeners World Magazine](#)
 - Don't forget to include some vegetables that are in season in October/ November. For example, apples (stored), pears (stored), beetroot, brussel sprouts, cabbages, carrots, cavolo nero, chard, Jerusalem artichokes, kale, lettuce, pak choi, pumpkins and winter squash, spinach, and turnips.
 - Talk about pollinators and their role in the garden.
 - What herbs and flowers could you plant to support pollinators, and other wildlife throughout the growing season?

For example, you could plant dwarf sunflowers to attract pollinators over the summer and then leave their dried seedheads in your garden to feed the birds in the autumn.

You might find some good ideas here [The best plants for bees and pollinators | The Wildlife Trusts](#) and here [Grow wildlife-friendly herbs | The Wildlife Trusts](#).

- Take a look at example garden designs, or visit a garden or allotment for inspiration.
- Sketch individual or group ideas for your patch. You could even create a scaled plan of your patch.
- **Pollinator Safari (Outdoor Activity)**
 - Explore the school grounds or nearby green space.
 - Record any bees, butterflies, or bugs spotted.
 - What are their habitats and which flowers are they attracted to? Could this be included in your design?
 - Link this to plant choices in your garden design.

Consent & Privacy Notice

In line with GDPR and child safeguarding guidelines, Bream Gardening Society requires appropriate consent from the school and/or parent/guardian to share the name of the winning entry and photographs of the garden design (this may include students). This is for the purposes of promoting the competition at the show, use on our website and social media, and through local media outlets.

No images of pupils will be used without prior written permission from a parent or guardian. A consent form will be provided to the winning school.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Suzanne Snowden, School Link for Bream Gardening Society.

breamgardeningociety@gmail.com 07796531508

ENTRIES

The **closing date** for **School Entries** is **Thursday 6th August 2026**

Please return your completed **Entry Form** to Suzanne by **email**.

Alternatively, simply contact Suzanne with the details of your entry.

Your school may submit either

- a single entry
- or two entries: 'Year 2 and under' and 'Year 3 and over'.

For Bream Summer Show on Saturday 15^h August 2026 we will display photographs and information about your school pollinator patch. Photographic evidence can be sent to us by email or post ahead of the show and we will display it at the event.

The show will be held in the Grand Marquee outside Bream Sports Club (GL15 6JF). The show will open at 2:00pm. Prize-giving will commence at 4:30pm.

For Bream Autumn Show on Saturday 31st October 2026 we would like you to display produce harvested from your pollinator patch - fruit, vegetables, herbs, flowers and/or seedheads.

The School Pollinator Patch Displays will be judged at the BGS Autumn Show at the West Dean Centre (GL15 6JW) on **Saturday 31st October 2026**. Further details to follow in the Autumn.

We will be in touch with you between now and these events for progress meetings.

Entry Form

NAME OF SCHOOL _____

CONTACT PERSON _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

We would like to enter the **Pollinator Patch – Food for All** competition, **'Year 2 and under'**

We would like to enter the **Pollinator Patch – Food for All** competition, **'Year 3 and over'**