

# Primary school overcome tarmac to get growing

With no grass and lots of tarmac, Nelson St Philip's Primary School in Lancashire had to get inventive when establishing a growing space. To get some inspiration, they attended a Food for Life training session and worked with the Food for Life team in Lancashire for further support. Armed with compost and lots of pupil creativity, they set up their own 'Grow Our Own' area.

Sustainability was at the front of their mind when creating their space. They repaired, renovated and reused whatever they could get their hands on to create raised beds to grow all sorts of plants.

## Began as

a broken planting trolley

## Turned into

A working plant trolley: boarded, lined and filled with compost.

## Began as

old planters

## Turned into

Extra planting spaces: salvaged and attached to a fence.

This new and improved garden area means the school team can get creative with the curriculum, giving pupils a choice of what to plant as they explore topics like life cycles and where food comes from.



After a period of trial and error, for the first time ever the school will be able to harvest and cook school-grown food, including potatoes, beetroot, lettuce, peas, chives and strawberries.

Food for Life have since provided them with three additional raised beds to further improve their planting provision. They hope that these improvements will engage the school families, an important step to developing a successful, sustainable community project.

“The children have thoroughly enjoyed being able to watch their plants grow from seeds to seedlings, then into real, flowering plants. They check and care for the plants daily to help with their learning of ‘Understanding the World’. Seeing their reactions is wonderful.”

**Mrs Swire, Teacher, Nelson St Philip**

