



Key Stage: 3

Subject: Agriculture and Horticulture

Aims of the subject:

Our aim is to inform the children as consumers of the future of exactly how their food is produced. We want the children to understand the various production methods involved and enable them to make the choices that are right for them in their lives. We aim to cover all areas of food production whether it be free range, intensive or organic. Developing the necessary skills to do this has a vital role in what we do to. Full use is made of the working farm, its livestock and the Victorian walled Garden to grow plants and vegetables.

The subject is hugely experiential. An absolute mixture of classroom theory backed up by practical lessons depending upon the season and subject involved. By the end of Key Stage 3 all students will have interacted with the farm livestock and small animals as well as having grown vegetables and tomatoes from seed until they are harvested to be taken home

All the students are encouraged to participate whether their strength lies in the Indoor or "Outdoor" classroom provided. There are also unmeasurable aspects from group working, therapeutic and health benefits which add to their Ripley experience.

Year	What will I learn?	What will I do?
Year 7	Term 1 Health and Safety on the Farm. An introduction to soil and its role in food production.	Learn the importance of keeping safe and healthy on a working farm and within the school garden. Discover what good soil is made from and the importance of soil animals.

	<p>Term 2 Farming in Britain. Foods produced from livestock and crops that we eat.</p> <p>Term 3 Growing vegetables.</p>	<p>Learn why certain regions of Britain specialise in food types. Learn which farm animals produce food and the methods involved to do that.</p> <p>Sowing vegetable seeds, transplanting seed plugs, weeding and cultivating.</p>
Year 8	<p>Term 1: Livestock Husbandry. The feeding, housing and health management of farm livestock in the context of the RSPCA Five Freedoms.</p> <p>Term 2: Tomato production. Health benefits of eating tomatoes. How tomatoes are grown commercially in the UK, commercially in the USA and how they can be grown at home.</p> <p>Term 3: Trees. The environmental importance of trees. Tree type identification and their uses for landscaping, maintaining a healthy environment and improving biodiversity.</p>	<p>Study the farm calves, sheep, pigs and chickens and learn how they are managed to be healthy and productive. Learn the various growing methods and skills to grow your own tomatoes at school and take home to eat!</p> <p>Use the extensive range of trees in the spectacular school grounds of Ripley to describe the importance of tree ecology.</p>

Extra-curricular opportunities

Pupils have the opportunity to take part in Pony club during the Autumn term learning how to care for our two school ponies Harvey and Sonny. In the Summer term Farm and Garden club takes place when pupils can tend a plot of vegetables and experience how to care for our small animals (chickens, rabbits, quail and pygmy goats)

How you can support your child's progress

Please encourage your child to read and watch articles in the news and TV programmes to increase awareness of environmental issues.

