

## Community Growing Hub - Lochwinnoch Primary School

Our Parent Council is driving an exciting new venture to establish a community food growing site in the grounds of our school. This will be a brilliant asset to the school but will also be open to the wider community for their use outwith school hours. Produce from the site will be largely offered to the Community Larder for distribution to those who most need it. But if anyone is looking for some personal growing space, we would love to try and provide this too.

Our vision is for this to become a meeting place for the community where events and demonstrations can be hosted for educating all ages. This site is going to help bring more awareness to climate issues and teach children about sustainable gardening without industrial process, chemicals or unnecessary waste. Our intention is to help reduce carbon emissions created through transportation of food, and production and disposal of packaging, by producing fresh, healthy food locally.

Additionally, growing vegetables can help with wellbeing and mental health and we hope this site becomes a meeting place where the community can come together to partake in purposeful activity.

We are grateful to a number of community groups who have already offered funding to kickstart this project including Lochwinnoch Community Council, Lochwinnoch Community Development Trust, Linthills Ltd. plus others who have also indicated their willingness to support it financially. We are applying to a main funder for the bulk of the equipment we require - this includes a replacement cover for the polytunnel, additional raised veg beds and planters, soil, compost seeds and manure.

We hope the parent community within the school will also be interested in getting involved and we shall schedule more volunteering days as an extension of Team Playground after Christmas. If anyone has previous growing experience we welcome input but we would also love to help any veggie beginners to get growing!