

CASE STUDY

POLYTUNNEL INSTALLED

School PTA completes project to install a polytunnel at The Knaphill Lower School

FEBRUARY 2025

BACKGROUND

In 2023, The Knaphill Schools PTA consulted with the school community to ask where they would like them to focus their funding efforts with regards to green issues. A key finding was that 86% of parents and carers wanted the PTA to look into options to provide resources for the children to have the opportunity to grow plants and vegetables. The PTA consulted with the head teacher and eco and sustainability lead at Knaphill Lower School to investigate the best options to deliver on this objective. The school identified that they would love their own polytunnel.

FUNDING JOURNEY

The PTA began exploring the options and settled on a structure that would be large enough to accommodate small groups of students to take part in growing activities.

Once we decided on the polytunnel that would work, we began the search for funding to implement the project. We were fortunate enough to be supported by The Margaret Litchfield Trust - a charity focused on providing small grants to charities with a focus on education and young people. When we described our vision to the trustees, they were absolutely thrilled to know that so many children would benefit from their support.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD TEACHER

"Our school values environmental learning and we are committed to providing great opportunities to our children to spark their curiosity. Our children gain so much from being able to learn outside and have hands on opportunities to explore the natural world. We are so thankful to the PTA for this opportunity."

Miss V Harbridge

THE BENEFITS

Polytunnels are a semi-circular, plastic-covered tunnel used to grow plants, vegetables, and fruits.

They are a great resource for schools providing a practical outdoor classroom space where children can actively learn about gardening, plant life cycles, and environmental awareness.

They also offer mental health benefits through hands-on gardening activities, and a sensory activity that can help with emotional regulation.

Our polytunnel will allow us to offer all year-round opportunities meaning our children can learn about plant growth in different seasons.

Helping to grow plants will teach our children more about responsibility and taking care of something. They will see how food is grown and what it takes to nurture those plants.



CONSTRUCTING OUR POLYTUNNEL

The polytunnel was installed on Wednesday 12 February and our installers, worked efficiently amongst the cheers and questions from our children as they excitedly watched.

After a few hours, our new 10ft x 15ft polytunnel complete with four trestle staging tables was ready to go!

The grant also allowed us to purchase equipment to get the children started including:

- Gloves
- Tools
- Wheel barrows
- Seeds and pots
- Watering cans and a garden hose

With thanks to Squires, Woking for your support with helping our grant go as far as possible!

We can't wait to see what the children grow!

