

Gardening for Post-Primary Students

There are five Priority Learning Units at the centre of every Level 2 Learning Programme. These prepare students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult and working life and lifelong learning. The five PLUs are Communicating and literacy, Numeracy, Personal care, living in a community and Preparing for work. They are presented as self-contained units but when used in learning programmes will be integrated and developed in a wide range of learning contexts. Each PLU is described in general terms, followed by a summary list of the main elements of each PLU set out in a table. This is followed by more detailed learning outcomes associated with each of the elements. The learning outcomes describe what students will be able to do to demonstrate evidence of achieving the learning. The learning outcomes for each PLU are broadly aligned with the Level Indicators for Level 2 of the NFQ.

The PLUs are clearly interconnected; they overlap and interlink in many ways. Fostering awareness in the student of the interdependence of these areas is an integral element of learning. (www.JCT.ie)

Similarly, for L1LP:

There are six Priority Learning Units (PLUs) at the heart of every L1LP. These PLUs explicitly identify and develop the key areas of learning needed to prepare the students for their future lives. Though presented as self-contained units when used as part of a learning programme these PLUs interconnect and overlap. The order in which the PLUs are presented is to assist teachers who are planning for L1LP and L2LP students. (www.curriculum.ie)

Many students will complete elements of both level 1 and level 2 for their JCPA certification

Priority Learning Units

L2LPs	L1LPs
Communication	Communication, Language & Literacy
Numeracy	Numeracy
Personal Care	Personal Care & Well Being
Living in the Community	Being part of a community
Preparation for Work	The Arts/Physical Education

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These courses are designed to be flexible programmes to support students learning. Activities such as gardening support the student to develop learning skills necessary for certification but also that will support them in their life after school.

Our overall aim is that our students will be engaged in quality learning experiences and gain relevant and enjoyable experience. FUN is key!

These are just some of the learning aims that will be met through gardening.

Listening to gain information, Asking questions, Following a series of instructions, Reading to obtain information, Interpret different forms of text, Writing to express opinion, Finding information on the web, managing money, use appropriate words to describe hot/cold, identify objects to take temperature etc, Keep a weather log, weighing/measuring, develop an awareness of length & distance, develop spatial awareness, Support healthy eating habits(growing own food), Develop awareness of a healthy diet, Learning skills to support outdoor activities & gardening, Exploring gardening as a way to relax, Identify some common trees, shrubs/flowers, use a common range of gardening tools, Keep a diary or log, Name the conditions that help flowers grow, Describe the cycle of a plan..... and so many more!

DON'T forget to record work completed – Photographs

- Videos
- Diary
- Drawing
- Project work

These recordings/samples/portfolios can be used as assessments and will also offer the student an opportunity to review work completed and offer a sense of achievement and pride.

Active participation and engagement in fun tasks such as gardening provide multiple learning opportunities.

“Give the pupils something to do, not something to learn; and the doing is of such a nature as to demand thinking; learning naturally results. John Dewey