

## Children play judge at RHS Chelsea Flower Show

Primary schoolchildren have played junior judges at this year's Show announcing the first winner of the new RHS Children's Choice Award



### The Octavia Hill Garden by Blue Diamond with the National Trust garden is Children's Choice

Nine London primary schools were invited to the world's most famous horticultural event and decided to award the first ever RHS Children's Choice Award to [The Octavia Hill Garden by Blue Diamond with the National Trust](#), on the opening day of the show.



## Special judging criteria



After enjoying a picnic lunch, the 72 junior judges set off in groups to assess the eight Show Gardens with a series of questions:

- Is the garden a good place to play?
- Is the garden attractive to wildlife?
- How does the garden make you feel?





Designer of the [WaterAid Garden](#), Tom Massey welcomed the challenge of having children judge the garden. “It’s great that the kids are judging this year. All gardens should be designed with children in mind to some degree,” said Tom





As well as judging the eight Show Gardens, the junior judges visited the **RHS No Adults Allowed Garden**, designed by pupils from Sullivan Primary School in South West London, which demonstrates that gardening is for everyone, regardless of age.

## Growing young gardeners

The schools were chosen for their passion for growing through gardening clubs, **growing their own food**, and exploring ways to **encourage wildlife into their grounds**. All schools are part of the **RHS Campaign for School Gardening**, which provides teachers with free resources, training and support to get more young people gardening. It is hoped that the experience at the show will bolster the children's love of gardening and nature, particularly as many of the pupils do not have easy access to a garden or green space at home.

**Read more:** [Deal struck to allow adults on to kids-only garden](#)

**RHS Director General, Clare Matterson, says:** “The decision to include children as judges at this year’s RHS Chelsea Flower Show reflects our commitment to cultivating a lifelong passion for gardening. The RHS Children’s Choice Award champions the unique perspective of young people and highlights the importance of nurturing a connection between children and the natural world. As the world’s greatest gardening spectacle, RHS Chelsea is a feast for the senses, and I can’t wait to hear what our junior judges make of it.”

- [Read about our National Education Nature Park programme](#)
- [Find out how children and young people can benefit from nature’s restorative powers](#)