



Royal
Horticultural
Society

Sharing the best in Gardening

WORKSHOPS FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

RHS GARDEN ROSEMOOR

Discover an inspiring garden where the imagination grows

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) is the UK's leading gardening charity. The RHS is committed to engaging children with the natural world of the garden and inspiring an understanding of science. Learning how to sow seeds and care for plants enthuses and encourages the next generation.

RHS Education and Learning offers a range of exciting workshops to suit all ages. Our workshops are run by enthusiastic, highly qualified teachers and are supported by experienced volunteers.

The RHS offers both guided workshops with an Education Officer and self-guided visits. Educational visits are free if pre-booked. Guided workshops are 1 – 2 hours in length depending on the age group of the class and can be chosen from a selection in this brochure or tailor-made to your requirements.

Workshop activities are adapted to suit the age and needs of the visiting group and we offer discovery trails and activity ideas to complement self-guided visits.

Our school programmes are available to all, please speak to the Education Officers about any special needs or access requirements that you may have. Our garden is accessible for wheelchair users.

RHS Garden Rosemoor has achieved both the Growing Schools Award and the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge.





Contents

Garden Information	4
Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1	6
Key Stage 2	13
Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4	19
Horticulture	21
Art	22
Self-Guided Visits	23
Forest School	24
RHS Campaign for School Gardening	25
Important Information	26
How to book	27
How to contact us	Back cover
How to find us	Back cover

Garden Information

RHS Garden Rosemoor is one of the finest gardens in the world. There are over 65 acres open to the public – 40 of garden and 25 of woodland, and the garden hosts a stunning and varied plant collection. This includes many species of fruit and vegetables, as well as perennials, bulbs, herbaceous and woody specimens. There are formal and informal areas, a large fruit and vegetable garden, woodland, a lake and stream garden as well as two children's play areas – The Brash and The Copse.



1



2

- 1 The Brash
- 2 Exploring the Lake
- 3 The Herb Garden Pond
- 4 The Peter Buckley Learning Centre
- 5 Propagation
- 6 Inside the Learning Centre



3



The Peter Buckley Learning Centre and Teaching Garden

The Centre is named in memory of the late Peter Buckley, who made a huge contribution to the RHS during his time as President. It has two large classrooms, a covered outdoor space so we can work whatever the weather, toilets and cloakrooms. We also have a teaching garden with a vegetable patch, a sensory garden and three dipping ponds. The surrounding area is now planted and open to visitors. This includes a forest garden, our allotment area and lawn where children can release some energy. There is also our impressive cob shelter which can be used as a classroom.



Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1

Our aim is to stimulate and capture children's curiosity about nature and gardening through exciting hands-on experiences.





Helping Rosie, our Garden Fairy (EYFS)

Available all year

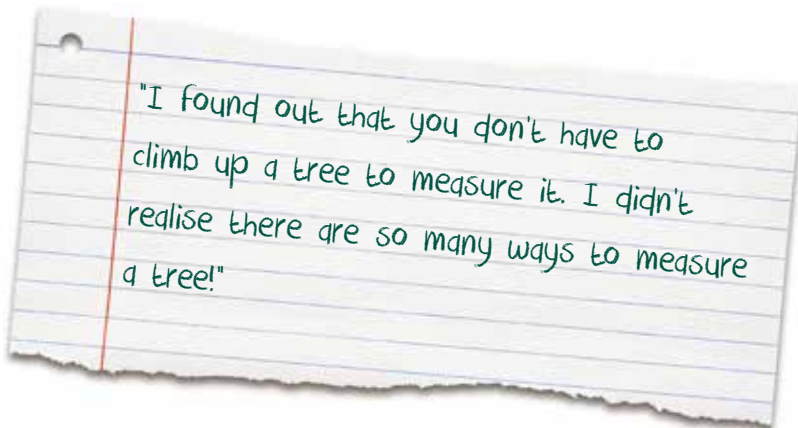
Disaster has struck, and in a big storm, Rosie, our Garden Fairy has lost all her secret store of seasonal natural ingredients for making crowns. Help her to replenish her store and she will help you make some crowns to take home. Other activities can be added along the way.



Explore the Senses (EYFS)

Available all year

We explore the garden using our different senses, tasting vegetables in the classroom, using touch to feel natural objects, listening for different sounds and making a smelly cocktail.





Colours of the Rainbow (EYFS)

Available April – October

Look at colours of flowers/leaves/stems, and split into groups – collect samples of one colour (the children find, the adults pick). Each group makes a shade card of their colour and they hold them up to make a rainbow. Please bring a camera.



If you go down to the woods.... (EYFS)

Available all year

....you never know what you will find! Groups will follow a bear trail into the woods to explore and discover through a variety of activities. These may include bug hunting, creating your own woodland creature, collecting colours and exploring with a different view.



How Plants Grow (KS1)

Available all year

How do plants grow? We follow the progress of a seed to a flowering, fruiting tree using props, costumes and children.

What do plants need in order to grow healthily? Discuss water, light, temperature and nutrients. Discover the ingredients of soil and make a bowl of it.

We look at the varied root systems of plants, talk about why and when plants are re-potted, and you will be shown how to pot up a house plant, to take back to school.



Incredible Edible Plants (KS1)

Available February – March

Do you grow vegetables at school/home? What difference do the seasons make to growing vegetables? Come and visit our Fruit and Vegetable Garden, taste a variety of vegetables and help the children plant their own vegetable seeds in pots, to take back to the school garden. Potatoes (in 1 – 3 large pots depending on class size), rocket/salad and sugar snap peas (in individual small pots) will be planted. Carrying trays will be provided for your journey, but please ensure there will be enough space in your transport.



Apples (KS1)

Available September and October

Where does the eating apple come from originally? How did it arrive in Britain? Using props, a costume and children, the children learn how an apple pip grows into a flowering apple tree, which is pollinated to produce an apple. We explore the Fruit and Vegetable Garden to see apples of different colours, sizes and shapes, and taste some varieties, finishing with apple artwork. The teacher's pack contains a sheet of some useful apple facts, recipes and customs.

"All the blossoms were awesome. I loved the deep red, bright pinks and light purples! Wherever I looked is colour!"



A Home for Robin (KS1)

Available all year

Can you help Robin find a new place to live? Look around our garden and find out if there is enough food, shelter, nesting materials and friends for a robin. Play a game to find out what Robin needs to survive and collect materials to make a nest.



Minibeasts and Habitats (KS1)

Available all year

We discuss what a 'minibeast' is and what habitats are before we discover the woodland with viewers and classification keys. The children explore the ground, searching for different types of invertebrates and using different techniques to find them. Minibeasts are identified and drawn, students can answer questions and simple food chains are introduced. We look at the difference between the habitats and the need for camouflage, and finish the session with a hunt for different coloured worms to demonstrate the advantages of camouflage.



Christmas from the Garden (KS1)

Available November and December

We discuss Christmas and its customs, and find out which plants we eat during the festivities. The children make a card from natural materials before we walk into the woodland to talk about the origins of the Christmas tree and collect some cones. Back in the classroom, the children make a tree decoration using some natural materials from the garden.



Natural Sculptures (KS1)

Available all year

A chance to use natural materials for making art and sculptures. This will begin with a look at a gallery of work produced by artists using the natural world as their medium. Activities in the garden include collecting colours, framing natural pictures, looking at the fine details in leaves and building sculptures in the woods. Depending on the time of year, there may also be an art exhibition in our lecture hall, or a sculpture exhibition in the garden, which your class can visit. Please ask for details when you book.



Rainbow Colours and Shades (KS1)

Available April – October

Take a look at the colours of flowers, leaves, stems and bark, look closely at individual flowers, and talk about why flowers are coloured at all. Find out about colour shades, and in groups, search for plant material in all shades of a particular colour (the children look the adults pick). Each group makes a shade card with their finds and they are all held up to make a rainbow. Please bring a camera.



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The Art of Quentin Blake (KS1)

Available March – October

Using copies of exhibition pictures we demonstrate Quentin's style and energy. Children are given small pictures to copy to get a feel for his style. We go in search of Rosemoor's 'Green Ship' as we read Quentin Blake's 'The Green Ship'. The class explores the ship and imagines the voyages they would go on, as in the book.

We use watercolours to create a shade chart of green, and the children use an outline picture of the green ship to paint and colour in.

To book any of these workshops please call 01805 626819



Stimulate the Senses (KS1)

Available all year

Let's give our senses a workout with a variety of activities. The children taste some different fruit and vegetables and we discuss how they feel and sound in our mouths. Out in the garden, the class splits into groups, each with a descriptive word and searches for items which fit the word. Let's test our hearing in the woodland and finally make our noses work, each child making a smelly cocktail using flowers and leaves.



Weaving and Dyeing with Plants (KS1)

Available all year

We talk about plant fibres and look at samples of cotton, linen and bamboo and the fabrics they make. We learn how threads are made by twisting fibres together and working in pairs the children twist cotton fibres into threads by hand. The children all become part of a loom and help to weave rushes into a mat for their class. We discuss the colours of our clothes and the dyes that are used today and in the past. The children help in a process to extract plant dyes to colour cotton threads using a microwave, and they have the chance to extract colour from leaves and petals using cloth and a hammer!

"I never knew that leaves could come in so many different shapes and flowers could be so pretty!"

Key Stage 2

Key Stage 2 workshops offer the opportunity to explore and extend children's knowledge – bringing learning to life in a varied and stimulating environment.





Amazing Maps

Available all year

Maps are amazing, they can contain so much information about the land we live in and help us to move around. Look at aspects of maps including scale, keys, and grid references. Activities will include an orienteering trail for groups to navigate using a map of Rosemoor, collecting codes which need to be cracked at the end. Which team will solve the puzzle first?

Please discuss which areas you would like us to focus on so we can tailor this activity to your needs.



Incredible Edible Plants

Available February and March

Taste a variety of vegetables, discover which part of the plant you are eating and where they were grown. We work out the air miles they have travelled and discuss the impact on the environment. We discuss what we do with the left-overs, compost heaps – how they work and why they are important. Be inspired by our Fruit and Vegetable Garden, before your class sows vegetable seeds in pots, to take back to your school garden. Potatoes (in 1 – 3 large pots depending on class size), rocket/salad and sugar snap peas (in individual small pots) will be planted. Carry trays will be provided, but please make sure you will have room in your transport.

"Thank you for a great walking guide through the gardens. The children have learnt a lot this morning and so have the staff!"



Natural Colours and Dyes

Available all year

Man-made dyes are discussed with regard to colour in our clothes, and what was used before them. The children help to extract colours from plants, to dye cotton threads using a microwave. Collect petals and leaves from the garden, extract the pigments from them using a pestle and mortar, and use a variety of soils to make more colours. The children use the colours as paints to create garden pictures and patterns.



Natural Sculptures

Available all year

A chance to use natural materials for making art and sculptures. Look at a gallery of work produced by artists using the natural world as their medium. Carry out a number of activities in the garden including collecting colours, framing natural pictures, looking at the fine details in leaves and building sculptures in the woods.

Depending on the time of year, there may also be an art exhibition in our lecture hall, or a sculpture exhibition in the garden, which your class can visit. Please ask for details when you book.



Papermaking

Available all year

Discuss how paper is made and the variety of different plants which can be used to make it. The class is divided into groups so everyone can have a go at making their own pieces of paper by reusing old shredded office paper and decorating it with leaves and petals from the garden.

We will supply a carry tray so you can take it back to school to dry out properly.



Printmaking and Patterns from the Garden

Available all year

Look at the works of William Morris, who was closely associated with the Pre-Raphaelite and Arts and Crafts Movements, Maurits Escher, a famous Dutch graphic artist, and Antoni Gaudi, a famous Spanish architect, and see how they used natural shapes to make patterns. Discuss repeat patterns and reflective symmetry, before finding simple shapes to draw in the garden. Inspired by these design a motif and use it to make a stamp to create patterns.



Propagation Techniques

Available March – October

How is your school garden growing? Would you like your class to learn how to produce FREE plants? There are many different ways to propagate plants, bring your class to learn some tips and take away the results. Depending on the time of year, they may learn how to take heel cuttings, root cuttings, hardwood cuttings, soft-tip cuttings, as well as splitting and seed sowing.

Carry trays will be provided, but please make sure you will have room in your transport.



Sowing and Growing: The Magic of Seeds

Available all year

What are seeds and how are they made? Look at a variety of shapes, sizes and colours of seeds, find different plants and seeds, and discuss the various dispersal methods. Make a paper seed – whose can travel the furthest? Activities include dissecting a broad bean seed, sorting seeds into categories, eating some seeds and sowing a pot of flower seeds each to take home.



Rocks and Soils

Available all year

Investigate the appearance and properties of different kinds of rocks and find out how they contribute to soil. Discuss the ingredients of soil, make some 'soil soup' and test soil samples to record pH, soil texture and colour.

This workshop is messy, so old clothes are a good idea.



©Quentin Blake 2014



The Voyage of the Green Ship

Available March – October

How does Quentin Blake use illustrations to tell a story? Explore Rosemoor's Green Ship, learn how to use watercolours to sketch and paint the ship. Imagine you are on a ship, and "sail" round part of Lady Anne's Garden, drawing a map of your voyage including sketches of locations your ship can visit, or where adventures might take place. Back in the classroom, begin a storyboard of your adventures which can be completed at school.

"I never knew that leaves could come in so many different shapes and flowers could be so pretty!"



Weaving and Dyeing with Plants Available all year

Investigate different plant fibres (cotton, linen, bamboo, soya bean, nettle, bark, etc) looking at samples to see the different ways in which they are used. Find out how environmentally-friendly they are and why this is important. The children help to extract natural colours from plants, see cotton being dyed using a microwave, and use hammers to beat the colours from plants onto cotton cloths.

Years 3–4 – The children all become part of a loom and help to weave rushes into a mat for their class.

Years 5–6 – The children will all have a go at weaving their own rush fish.



Food chains

Available all year

Which plants do we eat for energy? Where does energy come from, what is photosynthesis and how do plants make energy? See examples of plants grown without light, discuss the effect this has on them, and how light is used to make energy. Play a game to demonstrate the balance of all living things in an ecosystem, before hunting for creatures in our dipping ponds and working out a food chain for them.



Woodland and Pond Minibeasts

Available all year

What are 'Minibeasts'? What is a habitat? Taking lenses, viewers and classification keys into the woodland to explore, look for minibeasts, draw and identify them. Discover the creatures living in our dipping ponds and discuss the differences between the habitats and the creatures we have found.

Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4

Secondary Schools visit Rosemoor regularly for a variety of workshops which can be tailored to your needs. Sometimes these are individual sessions for a small class, or a whole year group visits for the day when we work with the teachers to offer a carousel of 4 – 5 workshops. Please contact us to discuss ways in which we can tailor our workshops for your class or year.





Soil Testing

Available all year

We have a range of activities which can augment the students' understanding of soil, including pH testing kits for use on three different samples which can include your school's soil – or can be presented as a Murder Mystery if you wish. Students can use soil augers to learn about soil profiles.



Classification

Available all year

Students look at a variety of plants in close detail to appreciate the finer differences between them, which helps when they use classification keys to separate and name them. In the garden, they are split into groups, each one being given a selection of plants for which they will create a key. The completed keys are swapped between the groups to check that they work or find out how they need to be improved.



Field Studies

Available all year

The students look at the flora of woodland and meadow, considering the factors which affect their distribution by using a variety of field techniques.



Science Day

Available all year

A circus of activities for the whole year group led by education officers and teachers. Activities can include workshops on propagation techniques, pond dipping and art. Please discuss your requirements with our education officers.

Horticulture

Propagation Techniques

Available March – July

We look at various plants in the garden and discuss how they propagate themselves before discussing how man takes advantage of these methods. The students consider the advantages and disadvantages of seed sowing versus vegetative propagation and how modern methods can overcome some of the problems.

Depending on the time of year, they may learn how to take heel cuttings, root cuttings, hardwood cuttings, soft-tip cuttings, as well as splitting and seed sowing.



A Day in the Life of a Gardener

Available all year

A day spent at Rosemoor, being guided by staff to find out more about the variety of skills required and the training and qualifications needed to become a gardener. This can cover arboriculture, fruit and vegetables, ornamental gardening and lawn care. The day can end with a practical session on mulching, or another group activity. This workshop suits all abilities and is not just for low achievers.



Art

Be inspired by the natural world. Come and visit RHS Garden Rosemoor and use the garden as inspiration for art work.

Teacher-led Drawing, Painting and Photography Workshop

Available all year

A large classroom is made available for use as a base from which to explore and use the garden for inspiration. Rosemoor has 65 acres of beautiful gardens and woodland, with a wide range of plants and trees which can inspire all styles of artwork and form the basis of a developing portfolio of work. A wide variety of colours, close-up textures, and broad or narrow vistas will bring the best out of your students.



To book any of these workshops please call 01805 626819



Self-Guided Visits

Schools are welcome to book a self-guided visit to the garden, however, **booking is essential**. All teachers organising a visit must book a pre-visit to discuss ideas and activities for your day.

If you are visiting Rosemoor and would like some ideas of activities you can do independently, we have a list of activity sheets you can download from our website.

The titles available are:

Key Stage 1:

- Animal Hunt
- Colour Crazy
- Journey Stick
- Vegetable Hunt
- Scavenger Hunt

Key Stage 2:

- Comparing Animal Habitats
- Parts of a Flower Sketch
- Plant name Acrostics
- Viewpoints
- What's that Tree?

Self-guided visits are free but the RHS expects that students are supervised at all times by accompanying adults. Lunches can be eaten in one of our picnic areas.

A screenshot of the RHS website's 'Self-guided visits' page. The page features a navigation bar with links for 'Home', 'Courses', 'Gardening', 'Plants', 'Children', 'RHS & Partners', 'About us', 'Contact us', and 'RHS'. The main heading is 'Self-guided visits'. Below this, there is a section for 'Self-guided school visits' which includes a description of the program and a list of activities for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. The Key Stage 1 activities listed are 'Animal Hunt', 'Colour Crazy', 'Journey Stick', 'Vegetable Hunt', and 'Scavenger Hunt'. The Key Stage 2 activities listed are 'Comparing Animal Habitats', 'Parts of a Flower Sketch', 'Plant Name Acrostics', 'Viewpoints', and 'What's that Tree?'. There is also a 'Featured book' section and a 'More on Rosemoor' section.



Forest School



Forest School is an inspirational process, that offers children and young people opportunities to achieve, develop confidence and self-esteem, through hands-on learning experiences in a local woodland environment.

It is available for pre-school age groups and upwards. These groups are usually small to allow high adult to children ratios and we have some wonderful woodlands in which we can run Forest School or woodland bushcraft activities.

Forest School is now run in many schools, though the space and habitat they have available for this is sometimes limited.

We can run regular sessions at RHS Garden Rosemoor for groups who can get here on a regular basis. However, understanding that travel is both costly and sometimes difficult to arrange, schools may prefer to bring groups for one-off woodland sessions.

Please ring John Hickson on **01805 626855** to discuss possibilities and opportunities.

RHS CAMPAIGN FOR SCHOOL GARDENING

The RHS Campaign for School Gardening is an initiative designed to support all schools through the development of their own garden within the school grounds and encourage children to enjoy actively using the garden.

It is free for schools to register to the Campaign upon which they will receive a free starter pack. Schools also have access to a huge host of useful resources, curriculum links, gardening advice from our Regional Advisors and information on how to find funding.

School Gardening Awards

To encourage schools to develop and maintain their garden areas, the School Gardening Awards is a step-by-step reward scheme which takes pupils through each stage of gardening from planning and designing to more advanced skills such as taking cuttings, making raised bed kits and constructing compost bins. Upon completion of each level, the school is awarded a prize including seeds, books and vouchers.

School Gardening Training Courses

The Campaign offers an extensive programme of teacher training courses designed to:

- enthuse and support teachers in developing and using gardens in schools
- support progression through the School Gardening Awards
- encourage and advise teaching of the National Curriculum both inside and outside the classroom using, plants, gardens, school grounds and environmental areas
- improve knowledge and understanding of plants and gardening

Learn more about the Campaign and register free at rhs.org.uk/schoolgardening



Important Information

Admission

All visits and workshop sessions are free but must be booked in advance; this includes guided and self-guided visits. The RHS is the UK's leading gardening charity and all educational visits to RHS gardens are FREE. If you feel able to give a donation to the RHS to help support our educational work this would be much appreciated, we ask you to consider a donation of £3 per child for your visit.

Pre-visits

We strongly advise teachers to come to the garden for a pre-visit, to meet with an Education Officer and discuss your visit requirements. Please call **01805 626819** to make an appointment.

On the day

- Coaches and cars park in the main car park opposite the Visitor Centre. Upon arrival please report to reception in the Visitor Centre where you will be met by an Education Officer.
- Toilets are situated in the Peter Buckley Learning Centre.
- If required you can have a snack break before you start the workshop. Please let the Education Officer know.
- The classroom you have booked will be yours for the duration of your visit and can be used as a base from which to explore the garden. Coats and bags can be left as necessary.
- If you have only booked one workshop you will have time after lunch to explore. There are self-guided activity cards available on our website:
rhs.org.uk/children/for-schools/school-visits
- Teas and coffees are available as take-aways from the restaurant.
- Lunch can be eaten in the classroom or outside on the teaching terrace, PBLC lawn, The Brash, or The Copse depending on the weather.

Access

Please speak to the Education Officers about any special needs or access requirements that you may have. Our gardens are accessible for wheelchair use.

Adult supervision

These ratios may include volunteer helpers. Adults must accompany their groups at all times for health and safety reasons. Please see the information contained in the 'Requirements for school groups' leaflet or accessed through the RHS website: rhs.org.uk

Ratios

Special Needs	1:1
Foundation Stage	1:4
Years 1-3	1:6
Years 4-6	1:8
All others	1:10

Bags and Lunches

We have cloakrooms available to store coats, bags and packed lunches if you are having a guided visit with an Education Officer. We encourage schools to bring packed lunches that result in the least amount of landfill waste possible.

Risk Assessments and Health and Safety

Supporting information to help you write your visit risk assessment will be sent to you with your booking form or can be accessed from rhs.org.uk/learning/education/schoolvisits.asp

We will also send our leaflet 'Requirements for School Groups' which includes guidance and responsibilities for leaders.

Come rain or shine

All our programmes include outdoor experiences in the garden. Please ensure that your children are dressed sensibly for the weather, with suitable footwear and appropriate clothing regardless of the season!

First Aid

There is First Aid cover in the Garden in case of an emergency. RHS staff will only carry out first aid under the direction and authority of an accompanying school staff member.

Allergies

Please inform Education Officers about any allergies (children and accompanying adults) before you visit the garden.



How to book

Booking is essential for all educational groups who would like to visit the garden, either as a self-guided or guided, Education Officer-led visit.

RHS-led sessions are about 1 – 2 hours long depending on the age of the children. Sessions may be booked for the morning (10am – 12 noon) or the afternoon (12.30pm – 2.30pm). You can book sessions for both morning and afternoon though this may limit your chance to explore the garden independently.

We recommend booking your visit well in advance to avoid disappointment, particularly for visits in March, May, June and July when we are very busy.

1. Choose a workshop from this brochure. Due to demand, we can only offer one workshop per class.
2. Contact us to make a provisional booking and discuss your requirements with an Education Officer.
3. We will email you a booking form to complete and return. You will also be sent health and safety information for making risk assessments and guidance and responsibilities for your visit.

4. Your booking will be confirmed by email when we receive your completed booking form.
5. Make a pre-visit to discuss your visit requirements with an Education Officer and familiarise yourself with the garden.
6. Use the pre and post visit lesson plans available on the RHS website in the learning and education section to support your visit.



The Pilkington Cob Shelter

For an alternative format of this brochure, please call 01805 626819 or email: schoolsrosemoor@rhs.org.uk

HOW TO CONTACT US

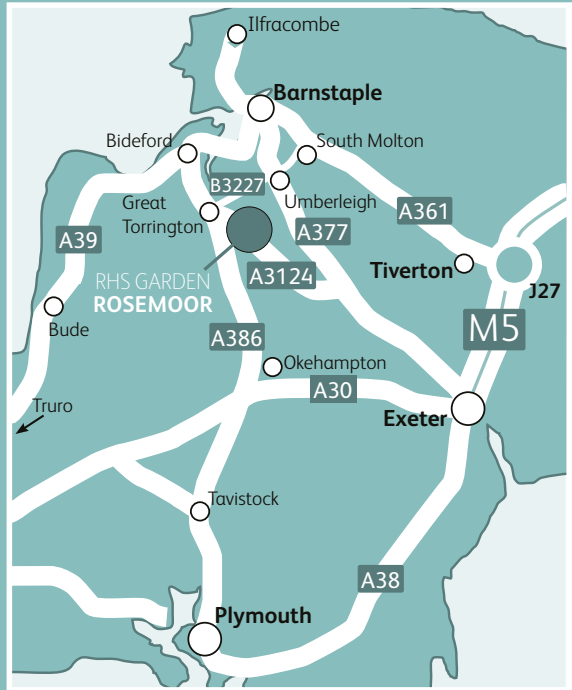
By post
Education and Learning
RHS Garden Rosemoor
Great Torrington
Devon EX38 8PH

By telephone
Booking and Enquiries
01805 626819
Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm

By e-mail
schoolsrosemoor@rhs.org.uk

HOW TO FIND US

The garden lies 1 mile south of Great Torrington on the A3124. It is approximately 1 hour from the M5 at Tiverton (junction 27) via the A361, 50 minutes from Exeter or 20 minutes from Barnstaple (these are times for cars, so please allow more time for coach travel).
Satnav users: EX38 8PH



rhs.org.uk/rosemoor

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