

## Blue Dome Synergies work in schools



MD Paul Richens

Blue Dome Synergies works with various partners and providers on projects ranging from rooftop gardens for restaurants to micro-waste management systems for business. But at the moment more than half our work is with primary and secondary schools\*, with children from year 6 onwards, constructing and planting-up organic vegetable gardens based on sound ecofriendly principles. We usually incorporate classroom-based workshop sessions (especially if it's raining!) exploring, for example, the water cycle, crop rotation, seasons, seed types...using games, quizzes and hands-on activities: assembling a wormery, simple vegetable cookery, making a comfrey composter.

Much of our work is in conjunction with Global Generation ([www.globalgeneration.org.uk](http://www.globalgeneration.org.uk)) a charity that enables a stream of (volunteer) children to train as mini green activists for their communities. This is funded from a range of sources including local government and local businesses, and it is a finalist this year in the prestigious Big Green Challenge (see [www.thebiggreenchallenge.org.uk](http://www.thebiggreenchallenge.org.uk)) which engages local communities in various exciting climate-change-tackling initiatives.

*Please note that the photographs are for the purpose of illustrating our fieldwork, to Croydon Council and for prospective educational visits: without our and parental permission they may not be reproduced.*

### Current schools

- Gunnersbury Catholic School
- Haverstock School
- Parliament Hill School
- Kentish Town C of E Primary School
- Maria Fidelis Catholic Convent School



Building a turf bank & re-potting with the girls of Parliament Hill School



Planting crops at Gunnersbury School



Constructing raised beds at Haverstock School

**Paul Richens:** Paul has been a keen organic gardener for many years and is a member of **BRAG** (Brentford Recycling Action Group) where he teaches local people to compost and use wormeries for household waste reduction. Before organic gardening became Paul's full-time work, he led the audiovisual team at the Natural History Museum.