Making scarecrows is great fun. Do it at home, in school and at community events. Anyone can have a go at making these human-shaped deterrents intended to scare off birds before they can damage your crops. This activity gets you started with suggested materials and examples of scarecrows already made at schools.

**Resources**
- Materials to reuse for making scarecrows. See top tip box
- Tools such as scissors, secateurs, etc

**Activity**
1. Look around your garden for materials and invite pupils and parents to donate items for reuse.
2. Get creative putting together scarecrows, perhaps hosting a competition and showing off the entries at garden events.
3. Position scarecrows near vulnerable plants to deter birds, such as pigeons. Reposition every few weeks so birds don’t get used to scarecrows and resume attacking plants.

**Top tip**

**Useful materials**
- Supports: broom handles, fence posts, branches, etc.
- Stuffing: straw, twigs, plastic bags, shredded paper, etc.
- Body: jumpers, trousers, shirts, tights, hessian sacks, bags, plastic bottles, plant pots, etc.
- Fixing materials: string, raffia, thin wire, cable ties etc.
- Noisy/glittery things for added deterrence: tin cans, foil bottle top, etc.

**Health & Safety**
Be careful handling and securing materials, looking out for sharp/rough edges.

**Further information**
S4.11 Reusing materials

See also Health and Safety Guidelines (Section SG1.2)