



Environmental Sustainability Policy

We are committed to promoting environmental sustainability and fostering in children a deep respect and care for living and non-living environments. We recognise our responsibility to future generations and aim to minimise our environmental impact while educating children about sustainable practices.

This policy outlines our approach to environmental sustainability, both in our educational program and our operational practices, aligning with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework 2024, Ofsted requirements, and broader environmental principles.

We are a Forest School Preschool and help educate children about the natural environment and how we can look after it.

Aims

We recognise that we have an impact on the environment and a duty to minimise this impact. We adhere to applicable legislation as the minimum standard to be maintained, but our intention is to be an environmentally sustainable organisation.

We aim to reduce our environmental impact by:

- Minimising our energy consumption
- Minimising our water consumption
- Minimising waste, including single-use plastic where possible.

We will review our environmental performance annually.

We will do this by:

- Educating children about the natural world, the importance of sustainability, climate issues and provide them with activities and opportunities to get involved with this.
- Helping children to explore nature through art, play, and sensory experiences
- Role model sustainable behaviours and attitudes
- Going on regular nature walks and learning about plants and wildlife in the local area
- Creating opportunities for outdoor learning in all weather conditions with appropriate clothing
- Supporting children to experience the natural environment through natural materials like wood, stone, sand, and recycled materials
- Encouraging respect for living things and habitats and exploring life cycles of plants and animals
- Supporting the environment by learning how to grow and nurture plants in the preschool garden
- Discovering the food cycle by growing, harvesting, and cooking food
- Helping children to learn about water conservation, energy efficiency, and waste reduction through play-based activities and adult interactions
- Implementing a comprehensive recycling system with clearly labelled bins and recycling food waste
- Minimising waste by reducing material consumption – e.g. minimising printing; recycling/ re-using materials where possible
- Turning off equipment and lights when not in use, turning off taps and fixing leak.
- Using energy-saving light bulbs and LED lighting where possible
- Unplugging all equipment at the end of its use/the day
- Using solar panels for electricity
- Recycling water from water play to water plants outside
- Encouraging staff, parents and children to regularly walk to nursery to preschool
- Shopping locally where possible
- Share ideas with families for improving sustainability
- Recycling materials for art and creative activities and encouraging parents to bring in their recycling materials for the same use

- Choosing eco-friendly cleaning and art supplies when available
- reducing single-use plastics throughout the nursery

Monitoring and Review

We will:

- Assess our nursery's environmental impact annually
- Review this policy and our practices annually to ensure it reflects current best practices and guidance
- Gather feedback from staff, children, and parents on environmental initiatives

Working together with all our children and families will help our environment to be more sustainable and make it a better place for our future generations to grow up in.

Date: August 2025

Reviewed: