



Sustainability and Climate Change Policy

Sustainability is an essential and integral part of our daily routines at our nursery. We wish to instill an understanding and awareness of the importance of sustainable practices, reducing our carbon footprint and impact on the planet. Our commitment to sustainability aligns with the government's goals to become a net zero nation.

'Through their learned and lived experiences from early years to further and higher education; we will provide opportunities to develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the importance of nature, sustainability and the causes and impact of climate change and to translate this knowledge into positive action and solutions.'
- DfE Sustainability and climate change: a strategy for the education and children's services systems, 2023

Our Values and Ethos

Our goal is to ensure that our setting and its practices, both inside and out, support sustainability, in line with government expectations regarding sustainability and climate change.

We do our best to reflect these values and our ethos regarding sustainability in everything we do. This includes our consumption of food, energy, and water, as well as how we travel and waste reduction/disposal.

Our Curriculum

Providing our learners with a curriculum that teaches them the importance of sustainability and how to live a more sustainable lifestyle is integral to the ethos and values of our setting.

Within our curriculum, we will give our learners the following opportunities to extend their understanding and appreciation of sustainability:



- Junk modeling. We encourage children to bring in their junk modeling in for craft activities
- We teach recycling paper. We have a recycling paper bin for children to use.
- We teach children to look after our resources and try to fix them if they break rather than bin them
- We use as much natural resources as we can and avoid buying too much plastic

Food Management

To ensure that we meet sustainability expectations relating to the management of food within activities and mealtimes, the following actions will be taken:

- We limit food to play with in activities to two or three times per week.
- We reduce waste by only preparing enough food for the children. We have extra on standby if the children need more but this is not prepared unless needed to reduce food waste.
- We use flannels rather than wipes to clean the children after they have eaten
- We provide hot lunches to reduce packed lunches reducing packaging involved in packed lunches.
- We have advised parents to bring lunches in thermoses which lots of parents are doing which has reduced packaging brought in lunch boxes

We want to make an impact by introducing these practices and modelling sustainable practices to the children.

Energy

To reduce our environmental impact, our setting aims to, where possible, monitor and limit our energy consumption (electricity and gas). The following actions have been implemented to demonstrate our commitment to this goal:

- We have added insulation to our premises to keep in the heat. This included sealing up drafts around the doors.



- We only use the heating for limited amounts of time. All staff know to switch it off when the room is warm enough for the children so as not to use unnecessary energy.
- We keep doors closed during winter months to keep the heat inside

Water

We understand that water is a valuable natural resource and that using it wisely and sparingly is essential. To reduce our water consumption within the setting and in our outdoor provision, the following actions have been implemented to demonstrate our commitment to this goal:

- We are collecting rain water for children to play with
- If we don't have enough rain water, we limit the amount of water we get from our taps for the children to play with to **one** watering can of water for every **ten** children per day

Travel

We will endeavour to promote sustainable practices relating to transport and travel. Our efforts in this area include initiatives to encourage all to travel via more sustainable, environmentally friendly means, including walking, cycling, scootering and (when necessary) public transport. This will enable our setting to reduce its carbon footprint and decrease the number of vehicles on the roads. To further reduce the impact of transport and travel on the environment, we will also do the following:

- Offer a space to store children's pushchairs so parents can walk to nursery
- We have a link to bus timetables on our website
- We encourage car share within our staff to travel to and from work
- When going on trips with the children we walk to our destination

Other Actions within our setting

- We try to buy as much second hand equipment as we can. We regularly ask on our newsletter for donations. We feel this is better for the environment to re use equipment/ toys/ books rather than buy new.



Puddle Ducks Nursery
Salehurst

- We are mostly paper free!
- We have worked very hard to create a nursery where we are using digital ways rather than paper ways to gather and record information
- We use biodegradable glitter as it is better for our environment.