



Environmental Sustainability Policy

At Little Explorers Day Nursery and Preschool, we are committed to fostering a sense of respect, care and responsibility for the natural world in all children. We embed sustainable practices throughout our daily provision, supporting children to develop an understanding of the world around them and their role within it.

This approach aligns with the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), particularly Understanding the World and Personal, Social and Emotional Development, as well as the Department for Education's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.

Our Intent

We aim to:

- Develop children's awareness, curiosity and respect for the natural environment
- Support children to understand simple concepts of sustainability, conservation and care for living things
- Encourage children to take responsibility for their environment through everyday actions
- Promote positive values such as respect, responsibility and cooperation (linked to British Values)
- Work in partnership with families to promote sustainable habits

Implementation (Learning Through Sustainability)

Children learn through meaningful, hands-on experiences. We embed sustainability across our curriculum by:

- Providing opportunities to explore nature through play, art, storytelling and investigation
- Using natural, recycled and repurposed materials within continuous provision
- Growing plants and herbs, supporting children to understand life cycles and food origins
- Teaching children about caring for living things, including plants and mini-beasts
- Introducing simple concepts such as recycling, reducing waste and saving energy
- Encouraging outdoor learning, including walks to explore local environments
- Promoting eco-friendly routines such as turning off lights and saving water

Children are encouraged to share their ideas and take part in decision-making, helping them to feel valued and responsible for their environment.

Sustainable Nursery Operations

We model sustainable practices in our daily operations by:

- Reusing and recycling materials wherever possible

- Sourcing resources locally and considering environmental impact when purchasing
- Reducing energy use (switching off lights and equipment when not in use)
- Using energy-efficient appliances and eco-friendly cleaning practices
- Composting food waste and using rainwater for outdoor activities where appropriate
- Minimising waste and promoting responsible disposal

Food and Sustainability

We promote sustainable food practices by:

- Encouraging children to grow, prepare and taste food
- Teaching children about where food comes from
- Avoiding unnecessary food waste in play
- Using food thoughtfully and with purpose when included in activities

Partnership with Parents

We work closely with families to promote sustainable values by encouraging:

- Walking, cycling or car sharing where possible
- Donations of clean, safe recyclable materials
- Participation in eco-focused activities and events

Impact

Through our approach, children:

- Develop a growing awareness of the natural world
- Show care and respect for their environment and living things
- Begin to understand how their actions can make a difference
- Build the foundations for responsible, environmentally aware citizenship

Monitoring and Evaluation

We regularly review our environmental practices to reduce waste and improve sustainability. Feedback from staff, children and families contributes to ongoing improvements.

Policy Review

This policy is reviewed annually, or sooner in line with updates to legislation or guidance, ensuring continued best practice.

This policy was adopted on	Reviewed
<i>24/01/2022</i>	<i>4th May 2026</i>