



Environmental Sustainability Policy

At Little Explorers, we are committed to fostering a sense of respect, care, and responsibility for the natural world in all children. We aim to embed sustainable practices into our everyday provision, helping children to become environmentally aware citizens from the earliest age. This approach aligns with the **EYFS 2024 framework** and the **Department for Education's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy**.

Our Aims

We aim to:

- Support children to develop positive attitudes and values about the environment and sustainability
- Provide learning opportunities that promote awareness of climate change, conservation, and the interdependence between people and the planet
- Encourage children, staff, and families to work together to create a more sustainable future

Learning Through Sustainability

Children learn best through meaningful, hands-on experiences. We incorporate sustainability into our curriculum by:

- Exploring nature through art, storytelling, and imaginative play
- Using natural, recycled, and repurposed materials in play and learning
- Growing plants in our nursery garden and using what we grow in our nursery meals
- Teaching children about the food cycle, composting, and caring for living things
- Promoting water conservation, energy awareness, and waste reduction through daily routines and conversations
- Taking nature walks and learning about local plants, trees, and wildlife
- Hosting "Walk to Nursery" days to encourage eco-friendly transport
- Creating a dedicated recycling area and encouraging children to apply recycling habits at home

Sustainable Nursery Operations

Sustainability is embedded into our daily operations by:

- Reusing household recycling for arts and crafts (e.g. cardboard, paper, tubs)
- Encouraging families to return recycled models for responsible disposal
- Considering our carbon footprint when purchasing materials and sourcing supplies locally where possible
- Turning off lights and equipment when not in use
- Using energy-saving light bulbs and unplugging equipment at the end of the day
- Using eco-friendly wash cycles and air-drying laundry when possible
- Composting food waste
- Using rainwater butts for outdoor water play and plant watering
- Recycling water from play for other uses
- Cooking with food grown in the nursery garden

Food in Play

We are mindful of both environmental responsibility and food education. Therefore:

- **We do not use food wastefully as a play material**
- Instead, we encourage children to explore food through cooking, tasting, and growing
- Where food is used for sensory or exploratory play, it will be done thoughtfully and with sustainability in mind

Working in Partnership

We believe that engaging families and our wider community is vital to promoting sustainable values. We encourage:

- Parents to walk, cycle, or car share where possible
- Donations of safe, clean recyclable materials for craft and sensory use
- Family participation in eco-awareness events and planting activities

Monitoring and Evaluation

We regularly assess our nursery's environmental impact and review our procedures to reduce waste, energy use, and unnecessary consumption. Feedback from staff and families helps shape our environmental practices.

Policy Review

This statement is reviewed annually or sooner in line with changes to local or national guidance. All changes are made in the best interests of the children, our setting, and the environment.

| This policy was adopted on | Signed on behalf of the nursery | Reviewed |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| 24/01/2022 | grobertsdyer | 14/05/2025 |