

# Climate Change & Sustainability Policy

## 1. Purpose

This policy outlines our commitment to reducing environmental impact and promoting sustainability within our pre-school, despite operating in a leased building. Our goal is to model environmental responsibility and foster climate awareness in young children.

## 2. Sustainability Goals (2025-2028)

- Reduce energy use by 15%.
- Reduce total waste by 30%.
- Transition 50% of materials to sustainable or low-carbon alternatives.
- Deliver weekly climate and nature education activities.
- Improve resilience to extreme weather and climate-related disruptions.

## 3. Constraints as a Tenant

As we lease our premises, we cannot make structural changes without landlord approval. Therefore, the policy focuses on operational and behavioural actions under our direct control.

## 4. Action Areas

### 4.1 Energy & Water Efficiency

- Adopt "lights/off devices off" practices.
- Use LED bulbs where permitted.
- Install draft stoppers and window coverings.

- Use smart power strips and eco settings on appliances.

Optional landlord collaboration:

- Insulation improvements.
- High-efficiency HVAC upgrades.
- Low-flow fixtures.

#### 4.2 Waste Reduction & Recycling

- Reduce single-use plastics.
- Implement child-friendly recycling systems.
- Track recycling contamination.
- Repair toys/books instead of replacing.
- Reduce food waste and introduce composting where possible.

#### 4.3 Sustainable Purchasing

- Prioritise eco-certified, non-toxic, reusable, and recycled products.
- Choose durable goods and use refill systems.
- Prefer suppliers offering low-emission delivery or take-back schemes.

#### 4.4 Transportation

- Encourage walking, cycling, scooters, and public transport.
- Provide bike/push-chair parking.
- Promote "Walk or Wheel Wednesdays".
- Support staff carpooling or active travel.

#### 4.5 Climate & Nature Education

- Weekly Earth Helpers activities (recycling, plant care, nature walks).
- Outdoor play days.
- Books and songs about nature and the environment.
- Age-appropriate lessons on caring for the planet.

#### 4.6 Climate Resilience & Preparedness

- Heatwave plan for safe indoor/outdoor activities.
- Poor air-quality procedures (air purifiers, indoor play).
- Storm and flooding emergency updates.
- Maintain backup emergency supplies.

### 5. Monitoring & Reporting

- Annual review of energy, waste, and purchasing metrics.
- Staff sustainability coordinator to oversee progress.
- Record curriculum-linked nature and climate activities.

### 6. Communication

- Quarterly updates for families.
- Newsletter sustainability highlights.
- Earth Helpers display area showcasing children's work.

### 7. Continuous Improvement

This policy will be reviewed annually and updated to reflect new opportunities, regulations, and available landlord collaboration.

Date of Review	Summary of Changes Made	Signed on behalf of the committee	Role of signatory
November 2025	New Policy created to meet requirements	<i>K. Bell</i>	Chair
DD/MM/YYYY			

Policy effective from November 2025