

The Willow Tree Nursery School

Sustainability Policy

Statement of Intent:

At The Willow Tree Nursery School, we recognise our responsibility to contribute to a sustainable future for the children in our care. We are committed to promoting environmental awareness and taking practical steps to reduce our ecological footprint. We aim to instil respect and care for the environment through our practice, curriculum, and everyday actions.

We are all responsible for actioning this policy, alongside our 'climate change plan', and this is overseen by our sustainability lead.

Our sustainability lead is: Giovana Dunkley

Aims:

- To reduce waste and increase recycling and reuse wherever possible.
- To make sustainable choices in our purchasing and use of resources.
- To incorporate environmental education into the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).
- To support and engage with our local community in environmental initiatives.
- To create a culture of respect for nature among children, staff, and families.

Implementation:

Teaching and Learning

- Embed sustainability in the curriculum through topics such as seasons, weather, growing food, recycling, and wildlife.
- Provide hands-on experiences including gardening, composting, and outdoor learning.
- Encourage children to be curious, ask questions, and make eco-friendly choices.

Waste Reduction and Recycling

- Reduce single-use plastics and encourage reusable alternatives where safe and practical.
- Reuse craft materials, cardboard, and household items for activities.
- Use recycling bins and involve children in sorting materials appropriately.

Energy and Water Use

- Switch off lights and electrical appliances when not in use.
- Use energy-efficient lighting and heating controls.

- Encourage water-saving habits like turning off taps and using collected rainwater in the garden.

Sustainable Resources

- Choose sustainable, non-toxic, and ethically sourced materials and toys.
- Purchase from local suppliers where possible to reduce transport emissions.
- Prioritise second-hand or upcycled furniture and equipment where safe and appropriate.

Outdoor Environment and Nature

- Maintain a garden or green space where children can plant, grow, and observe wildlife.
- Use natural and loose parts in play to encourage creativity and connection with nature.
- Organise regular nature walks, forest school sessions, or eco-days.

Involving the Whole Community

- Engage families through newsletters, and shared eco-projects.
- Encourage families to bring in recycled materials for use in nursery activities.
- Take part in local or national sustainability campaigns (e.g. Earth Day, Eco-Schools, Walk to School Week).

Staff Commitment and Training

- Provide staff with training and guidance on embedding sustainability into their practice.
- Nominate a sustainability lead or 'eco champion' within the setting.
- Regularly review and reflect on practices to identify areas for improvement.

Monitoring and Review:

This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if needed. Progress towards sustainability goals will be discussed in staff meetings and incorporated into the nursery's self-evaluation process.

Helpful resources:

Early Years Alliance

Twinkl's Sustainability Hub

[Sustainability and climate change: a strategy for the education and children's services systems - GOV.UK](#)

This policy was adopted by: The Willow Tree Nursery School

On:

To be reviewed: