Sustainability and Environmental Responsibility Policy

At Little Learners Nursery & Preschool, we recognise our responsibility to operate in an environmentally responsible manner and to promote sustainable practices throughout the nursery. We are committed to reducing our environmental impact while helping children develop an appreciation of, understanding of and respect for the natural world.

We believe that sustainability should be embedded within everyday practice and learning experiences. Through play, exploration and meaningful experiences, children are encouraged to become environmentally aware and to understand how their actions can positively contribute to caring for the world around them.

This policy supports the principles and learning outcomes of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), particularly the area of Understanding the World, whilst promoting children's wellbeing and developing positive attitudes towards environmental stewardship.

Our Sustainability Commitments

At Little Learners Nursery & Preschool we will:

- Reduce waste and encourage recycling throughout the setting.
- Reduce paper consumption through the use of digital communication platforms and electronic documentation where appropriate.
- Encourage children to participate in age-appropriate recycling activities that promote environmental awareness.
- Minimise energy and water consumption.
- Use environmentally responsible purchasing practices where possible.
- Promote outdoor learning and appreciation of nature.
- Encourage sustainable travel options for staff and families.
- Reduce our carbon footprint where practical.
- Support biodiversity through outdoor learning opportunities.
- Promote biodiversity through planting activities, wildlife habitats, bug hotels and nature-based learning experiences.
- Teach children about caring for the environment through age-appropriate experiences.
- Engage staff, children, parents and the wider community in sustainability initiatives.

EYFS Links

This policy supports the EYFS Statutory Framework, including:

Understanding the World

Children are supported to:

- Explore the natural world around them.
- Observe changes in seasons, weather, plants and animals.
- Develop awareness of environmental responsibility.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children learn to:

- Care for living things.
- Respect their environment.
- Develop a sense of responsibility and belonging within their community.

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Physical Development
Children benefit from:

- Regular outdoor experiences.
- Active engagement with natural environments.
- Healthy lifestyles linked to outdoor play and exploration.

Enabling Environments
Little Learners Nursery & Preschool provides opportunities for children to access high-quality indoor and outdoor environments that encourage curiosity, exploration and respect for nature. Children are encouraged to engage in planting activities, care for outdoor environments, observe wildlife and participate in experiences that support an understanding of the natural world and environmental responsibility.

Monitoring and Review
The Nursery Manager and Leadership Team will review this policy annually to ensure it reflects current legislation, EYFS requirements and best practice within the early years sector.

Sustainability objectives and initiatives will be reviewed regularly and shared with staff and families. The nursery will maintain a Sustainability Action Plan which will be reviewed annually to monitor progress against environmental objectives and identify opportunities for continuous improvement.

This policy meets the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework effective from 1 September 2026.

Date policy last reviewed/updated	6th October 2026	Reviewed by	Terri Noone - Interim Regional Nursery Manager
Date of next review/update	October 2027		

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Additional Appendix: Sustainability Action Plan

Objective	Action/Evidence	Responsible Person	Timescale
Reduce paper use	Newsletters, invoices, daily diaries and parent communications are issued digitally through Tapestry and email, reducing paper consumption across the nursery.	Manager	Ongoing
Improve recycling	Recycling facilities are available for staff and children, including child-accessible recycling bins to encourage environmental awareness and responsible waste disposal.	Room Leaders	Ongoing
Support biodiversity	A bug hotel and planting area have been established within the garden to encourage children's understanding of wildlife and habitats. Further planting activities will continue throughout the year.	Staff & Children	Termly Review
Reduce food waste	Food waste is separated and disposed of through dedicated food waste collections. Opportunities for composting and wider food waste reduction initiatives will be explored where practical.	Cook/Manager	Monthly
Energy saving	Daily checks are undertaken to ensure lights, equipment and electrical items are switched off when not in use. Staff are encouraged to minimise energy consumption throughout the day.	All Staff	Ongoing
Promote sustainable travel	Staff are encouraged to walk where practical, and sustainable travel initiatives are promoted with families through nursery communications and events where appropriate.	Manager	Ongoing
Environmental education	Children participate in activities that promote an understanding of the natural world, including planting, caring for outdoor environments, wildlife exploration and learning about sustainability through the curriculum.	Staff Team	Ongoing
Parent engagement	Sustainability initiatives and environmental messages are shared with families through digital newsletters, Tapestry and nursery communications.	Manager	Termly
Reduce plastic waste	The nursery promotes the use of reusable cups, bottles, cloths and refillable cleaning products, while minimising the use of single-use plastics wherever possible.	All Staff	Ongoing
Promote outdoor learning	Children access outdoor learning environments daily, including garden areas, bug hotels, planting activities, sand play and nature-based experiences.	Staff Team	Ongoing

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