

Climate and sustainability Policy

Climate and Sustainability Policy statement for Early Years

Introduction

At Little Acorns Pre-school we recognize the importance of fostering a sense of environmental responsibility and sustainability from a young age. Our climate and sustainability policy aims to integrate eco-friendly practices into our daily routines and educational activities, ensuring that children develop an understanding and appreciation for the environment. We are committed to and enjoy finding ways to reduce the impact of our setting on the environment. We do have to consider that we are a pack away Pre-school in a rented church hall therefore we have no recycling refuse collections for the time being.

Our aims are:

1. **Education and Awareness:** To educate children about the importance of caring for the environment through age-appropriate activities and discussions.
2. **Sustainable Practices:** To implement sustainable practices within our setting, including waste reduction, energy conservation, and resource management.
3. **Community Engagement:** To involve families and the local community in our sustainability efforts, promoting a collaborative approach to environmental management.

Strategies

1. **Curriculum Integration:** Incorporate environmental education into the curriculum through storytelling, outdoor activities, and hands-on projects that highlight the importance of nature and sustainability.
2. **Waste Management:** Encourage recycling and composting within the setting. Teach children to sort waste and understand the impact of waste on the environment.
3. **Energy Conservation:** Implement energy-saving measures such as using energy-efficient lighting, turning off appliances when not in use, and promoting natural light.
4. **Resource Management:** Use sustainable materials for arts and crafts and opt for eco-friendly products in daily operations. Reduce the use of single-use plastics and promote reusable items.
5. **Outdoor Learning:** Utilize outdoor spaces for learning and playing, fostering a connection with nature. Create gardens where children can learn about planting, growing, and caring for plants.
6. **Family and Community Involvement:** A parent Survey, initiatives to use cars less, family nature walks etc. Walk to school rewards, charts, stickers.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Regularly review and assess the effectiveness of our sustainability practices. Gather feedback from staff, children, and families to continuously improve our approach to environmental education and sustainability.

Conclusion

By embedding climate and sustainability principles into our early years setting, we aim to nurture environmentally conscious individuals who are equipped to make positive contributions to the world. Together, we can create a greener, more sustainable future for our children.

The sustainability lead coordinator is Kelly Ruff.

This policy was adopted by The Little Acorns Pre-school

Date: 15 May 2025

Signed on behalf of the pre-school _____

Name of Signatory _____

Role of Signatory _____