THE WOODLAND PRE-SCHOOL

The Guide and Scout Centre,
Coates Lane, Downley.
Bucks, HP13 5UX
Tel 01494 521953 (8.00am – 3.30pm)
www.thewoodlandpreschool.co.uk

Environmental sustainability policy

The Department for Education (DfE) strategy states that: *'By 2025, all education settings will have nominated a sustainability lead and put in place a climate action plan'*. The 4 key pillars that represent aspects of addressing climate change to foster a sustainable future are:

- Decarbonisation – reduce plastic use, reduce utility usage and encourage sustainable transport
- Biodiversity – encouraging children's engagement and empathy with nature
- Climate education and green careers goals – including stories, books and songs about nature and the environment into our curriculum
- Resilience and adaptation – assessing what sustainability and climate adaptations can be made and considering the risk of extreme weather events on The Woodlands community

Aim

The Woodland Preschool actively promotes environmental sustainability and we are committed to protecting our planet for the next generations to the best of our ability by:

- Changing perspectives and developing understanding in ourselves, our families and our children.
- Reducing the use of plastics – in particular single use plastics (SUPs) in our everyday lives.
- Cutting down on waste by reducing, reusing and recycling (the 3Rs).
- Minimising food waste.
- Caring for the world we live in.

At The Woodland preschool we support children to learn about sustainability - to respect and care for both the living and non-living environment.

Children have the opportunity at The Woodland Preschool to learn about and understand sustainability and environmental issues. They will observe adults modelling sustainable practices, learn about the world around them and how to protect it. Together we will support the children to develop positive attitudes and values about sustainable practices.

Our curriculum encourages children to explore ideas and practices that promote environmental sustainability and to understand the interdependence between people and the environment.

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Examples of ways that we will embed sustainability into daily life and our curriculum include:

Changing perspectives:

- Educate ourselves, our children and our families on what sustainability means and how to respect our planet.
- Weave sustainability into our daily lives and decisions – ask ourselves could this be done in a more sustainable way.
- Share our sustainability policy and educate and inform others on the steps that we are taking.

Reducing the use of plastics:

- Reducing the use of plastic bottles and bags as much as possible by finding alternatives and encouraging families / staff to use reusable lunch and drinks containers in lunch boxes.
- Switch suppliers to ones that offer more environmentally sustainable products.
- Buy milk in returnable bottles not individual cartons.
- Use alternatives to baby wipes that contain plastic.
- Source alternatives to craft materials – recycle materials and encourage parents to bring in recycling materials for art and creative activities.
- Look for resources that are not just plastic representations when real alternatives are available.
- We support children to experience the natural environment through natural materials.

Cutting down on waste by reducing, reusing and recycling:

- Use recycling bins - following the local recycling scheme guidance.
- Take steps to reduce the junk mail sent to the setting.
- Reduce the amount of paper printing.
- Ensure printer and toner cartridges are recycled.
- Recycle any electronic equipment – where possible using an environmentally friendly disposal scheme.
- 'Recycle' uniform by offering second hand uniform.
- Encourage families to donate pre-loved clothes, books and toys to charity shops, refugee support groups or to the setting.
- When purchasing new resources, we consider natural rather than plastic.
- Use natural resources such as water with care – ensure taps are turned off and any leaks fixed.
- Recycle water from water play by using it to water plants.

Minimising food waste:

- Encourage parents to send in fruit and vegetables they know their children like to avoid wastage
- Plan snacks carefully to reduce food waste for example being aware of portion sizes.
- Any food waste is put into our composting bin

Caring for the world we live in:

- We help children to explore nature through art and play.
- Educate children not to drop litter.
- Care for the setting environment indoors and out.
- Discover the importance of wildlife to the environment and eco system.
- Use natural resources where possible.
- We encourage families to walk, cycle, scoot to our setting.
- We go on nature walks and learn about plants we see in our local area.

References

The Department for Education's Sustainability and climate change strategy:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainability-and-climate-change-strategy/sustainability-and-climate-change-a-strategy-for-the-education-and-childrens-services-systems

This policy (Environmental Sustainability Policy) has been adopted by the Woodland Pre-School

On (date) December 2025_____

To be reviewed on (date) December 2026_____