



Environmental Sustainability Policy



Document and Version Control

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Policy Owner	Sharon Shilling
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This policy has been equality impact assessed, and we believe that it is in line with the Equality Act 2010 as it is fair, it does not prioritise or disadvantage any pupil and it helps to promote equality across Our Pride Our Joy, in line with The Fierté Multi-Academy Trust.

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
- ✓ Biodiversity
- ✓ Climate education and green careers goals
- ✓ Resilience and adaptation

For Our Pride Our Joy these pillars inform our activities in terms of:

- Decarbonisation:** Reducing plastic use
- Reducing utility usage
- Encouraging walking to and from the provision
- Biodiversity:** Fostering children's empathy with nature through exploration
- Engaging with flora and fauna in the setting and outings to local areas
- Climate education:** Sharing books, stories and songs with the children about nature and the environment
- Weaving environment and climate topics into the EYFS areas of learning
- Encouraging parents to engage with sustainability activities at home
- Resilience and adaption:** Reviewing all aspects of our setting's environment to assess what sustainability and climate adaptations can be made
- Considering the risk of extreme weather events on our children, families and provision

Aim

At Our Pride Our Joy we actively promote environmental sustainability through developing an eco-sustainability lead within each setting who is the Climate Champion.

Changing perspectives – at Our Pride Our Joy we will:

- 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.
- Display our sustainability policy and educate and inform others on the steps that we are taking.

Objectives

At Our Pride Our Joy we are committed to protecting our planet for the next generations to the best of our ability by:

- 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.
- Changing perspectives and developing understanding in ourselves, our families and children.

We support children to learn about sustainability - to respect and care for both the living and non-living environment.

Children can learn about and understand sustainability and environmental issues. They will observe adults' model 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.

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

Reducing the use of plastics:

- Reducing the use of single use plastic resources such as gloves and nappy bags as much as possible by finding alternatives.
- 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 large bottles not individual cartons.
- Use baby wipes only for nappy changes and provide more sustainable resources for washing faces etc.

- 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. For example, fruit and vegetables in the home corner or mud kitchen.
- We support children to experience the natural environment through natural materials.

Cutting down on waste by reducing, reusing and recycling:

- Introduce recycling bins - following the local recycling scheme guidance.
- Reduce the amount of paper printing.
- Recycle setting uniform to new families.
- 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 look for 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.
- Using energy saving light bulbs and where possible ensure lights are turned off
- Use energy saving wash cycles when using the washing machine.

Minimising food waste:

- Make links and have a box so that donations for the local food bank can be collected.
- Introduce composting bins or sign up for a local composting bin service to reduce food waste going to landfill.

Caring for the world we live in:

- We help children to explore nature through art and play.
- Educate children not to drop litter and conduct litter picking across the school sites.
- Care for the setting environment indoors and out.
- Discover the importance of wildlife to the environment and eco system.
- Use natural resources.
- Shop locally where possible.
- We encourage families to walk, cycle, or 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>