



Sustainability Policy

Grass Roots Nursery Group: Sustainability Policy

Purpose:

To establish procedures for embedding sustainability across our nursery group, supporting environmental responsibility, climate resilience, and nature-connected learning for children, staff, and families.

Scope:

This policy applies to all staff, children, and parents/carers at Grass Roots Nursery Group.

Key Principles:

- Environmental Responsibility: Promote sustainable practices across all aspects of nursery life.
- Education: Foster children's understanding of nature, climate, and sustainability through play and learning.
- Whole-Setting Approach: Engage staff, families, and the wider community in sustainability efforts.
- Continuous Improvement: Regularly review and enhance our sustainability practices.

Sustainability Focus Areas

- Decarbonisation: Reduce energy use, minimise waste, and promote low-carbon choices.
- Adaptation and Resilience: Prepare our settings for climate-related risks such as heatwaves and flooding.
- Biodiversity: Protect and enhance natural spaces to support wildlife and outdoor learning.
- Climate Education and Green Careers: Inspire children to care for the planet and explore nature-based roles.

Sustainable Practices

- Energy Efficiency: Use LED lighting, encourage switching off unused equipment, and monitor energy use.
- Waste Reduction: Minimise single-use plastics, promote recycling and composting, and reuse materials creatively.
- Outdoor Learning: Provide forest school sessions, sensory gardens, and nature-based play opportunities.
- Curriculum Integration: Embed sustainability themes into stories, discussions, and activities.
- Community Engagement: Host planting workshops, share updates via newsletters, and celebrate environmental events.

Monitoring and Review

- Self-Assessment: Conduct termly reviews of sustainability actions and progress.
- Staff Involvement: Encourage staff-led initiatives and reflective practice.
- Parent Communication: Share sustainability updates via the Family app and monthly newsletters.
- Policy Review: Update this policy annually in line with new guidance and nursery developments.

Staff Responsibilities

- Model sustainable behaviours and encourage children's participation.
- Implement sustainability actions in daily routines and planning.
- Communicate with families about sustainability goals and progress.

Parent Responsibilities

- Support nursery sustainability efforts at home and in the community.
- Engage with nursery-led initiatives and provide feedback.
- Promote eco-conscious habits with children.

Additional Considerations

- Procurement: Choose local, eco-friendly suppliers and reduce packaging waste.
- Climate Events: Prepare for seasonal weather impacts with shaded areas and water conservation.
- Language and Culture: Use positive, respectful language around nature (e.g. "soil" instead of "dirt") and celebrate environmental diversity.

By following this policy, Grass Roots Nursery Group will contribute to a more sustainable future, empowering children to become thoughtful stewards of the planet.