Environmental sustainability policy

Environmental sustainability policy was adopted by ***Springfield Bees Preschool*** on ***09/12/2025***.

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 *Springfield Bees Preschool* these pillars inform our activities in terms of:

Decarbonisation:	Our activities to reduce plastic use
	Our activities to reduce utility usage
	Encouraging sustainable transport to and from the provision
Biodiversity:	Fostering children's empathy with nature through exploration
	Engaging with flora and fauna in the setting both indoors and outdoors.
Climate education:	Sharing books, stories and songs with the children on nature and the environment.
	Weaving environment and climate topics into the EYFS areas of learning.
	Encouraging parents to engage with sustainability topics at home
Resilience and adaption:	Reviewing all aspects of our setting's environment to assess what sustainability and climate adaptations can be made
	Actively considering the risk of extreme weather events on our children, families and provision

Aim

Springfield Bees Preschool actively promotes environmental sustainability.

Our eco-sustainability lead who is the Climate Champion for our setting is: Viktoria Tomasovicova

Changing perspectives – at *Springfield Bees Preschool* 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.

Objectives

At ***Springfield Bees Preschool*** 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 our children.

At Springfield Bees 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 *Springfield Bees Preschool* to 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 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 large bottles not individual cartons.
- 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:

- We have introduced recycling bins - following the local recycling scheme guidance.
- We have taken 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.
- We recycle uniform for children where possible.
- We encourage families to donate pre-loved clothes, books and toys to charity shops, refugee support groups or to the setting, and donate to other charities where possible.
- When purchasing new resources, we look for natural rather than plastic.
- We use natural resources such as water with care – ensure taps are turned off and any leaks fixed.
- We recycle water from water play by using it to water plants and our fruits and vegetables.
- Use energy saving wash cycles when using the washing machine.
- We dry washing using airer's.

Minimising food waste:

- We have signed up to a supermarket food share scheme for families.
- Plan snacks and meals carefully to reduce food waste for example using foods that are in season and being aware of portion sizes.

Caring for the world we live in:

- We help children to explore nature through art and play.
- We educate children not to drop litter.
- We partake in litter picking.
- We care for the setting environment indoors and out.
- We discover the importance of wildlife to the environment and eco system whilst learning through play.
- We use natural resources in a range of activities.
- We shop locally where possible.
- We encourage families to walk, cycle, scoot to our setting.
- We go on nature walks and learn about plants and trees and the seasonal changes.

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