

Environmental Sustainability Policy

EYFS: 1.3-1.6

At **Winchmore Hill House Nursery** we wish to support children to learn about sustainable practices and foster, respect, and care for the living and non-living environment.

Children can develop positive attitudes and values about sustainable practices by exploring solutions to environmental issues, learning about the world around them and how to protect them, and watching adults role model sustainable practices.

We promote a holistic, open-ended curriculum that explores ideas and practices for environmental sustainability and helps children understand the interdependence between people and the environment by:

- helping children to explore nature through art and play

- supporting children to experience the natural environment through natural materials like wood, stone, sand, and recycled materials

- supporting the environment by learning how to grow and nurture plants in the nursery garden and discovering all about the food cycle by growing, harvesting, and cooking food for our nursery menu

- helping children learn about water conservation, energy efficiency, and waste reduction through play-based activities and adult interactions

- going on nature walks and learning about plants they see in the local area

- encouraging parents and children to walk to the nursery once a week/month to raise awareness of caring for the planet

- developing a recycling area and encouraging children to share recycling ethos in the home environment.

As a nursery, we will embed sustainability into all aspects of the operations including:

- recycling materials for art and creative activities and encouraging parents to bring in their recycling materials for the same use

- ensuring parents recycle children's take-home recycled material models if they do not keep them

- considering our carbon footprint when purchasing materials

- shopping local where possible

- turning off equipment and lights when not in use

- using energy-saving light bulbs

not leaving any equipment on standby

unplugging all equipment at the end of its use/the day

using energy-saving wash cycles on the washing machine

hanging washing out to dry/using clothes horses rather than tumble dryers where possible

composting food waste

incorporating water-wise strategies such as ensuring taps are turned off and leaks fixed

using rainwater butts for outdoor water play

recycling water from the water play to water plants outside

using food that we have grown in nursery meals.

Working together with all our parents and partners will help our environment to be more sustainable and make it a better place for our future generations to grow up in.

We assess our nursery's impact on the environment regularly and put procedures in place to counteract this impact.

To encourage children not to waste food or to play with food at mealtimes, we discourage the use of food as a play material; instead, we encourage activities that involve preparing and tasting different types of food.

This policy is reviewed annually and is carefully considered in the best interests of the children, the nursery, and the environment.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
<i>February 2025</i>	<i>Management Team</i>	<i>February 2026</i>

