

# **Environment & Sustainability Policy (EYFS Updated - September 2025)**

**Policy Statement:** At Butterflies Nursery we are dedicated to creating an environmentally responsible and sustainable setting, nurturing children's understanding of their role in protecting our planet. This policy is aligned with the revised Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS, September 2025), supporting children's holistic development through sustainability-focused practices.

## **Waste Reduction and Recycling:**

- Actively reduce waste by limiting single-use products and promoting reusable alternatives.
- Clearly marked recycling bins are provided, with children guided in correctly sorting and recycling materials.

## **Sustainable Practices:**

- Incorporate water-saving devices and energy-efficient practices, including switching off unused lights, heating, and appliances.
- Promote mindful resource use among children through daily routines.

## **Nature-Based Learning:**

- Regular outdoor play and exploration activities are planned to enhance children's connection with nature.
- Activities encourage exploration, observation, and appreciation of the natural environment.

## **Environmental Education:**

- Deliver age-appropriate educational activities on environmental stewardship, focusing on recycling, composting, biodiversity, and climate awareness.
- Engage children in discussions about protecting our environment and responsible citizenship.

**Nature Conservation:**

- Foster respect and care for plants, animals, and natural ecosystems.
- Provide opportunities such as gardening, birdwatching, and nature walks to encourage understanding and protection of biodiversity.

**Eco-Friendly Materials:**

- Prioritise the use of non-toxic, environmentally friendly materials in art, crafts, and educational activities.
- Encourage creative reuse and recycling of materials for various activities.

**Community Engagement:**

- Actively participate in local community sustainability initiatives, including clean-up projects and environmental awareness events.
- Involve children in eco-friendly community projects to reinforce sustainability learning.

**Sustainable Transportation:**

- Encourage families to adopt sustainable transport methods, such as walking, cycling, or carpooling, for drop-off and pick-up.
- Provide facilities such as bike racks or designated eco-friendly parking spaces.

**Continuous Improvement:**

- Regularly assess and enhance our sustainability practices, seeking feedback and suggestions from staff, parents, and children.
- Encourage staff innovation in promoting further sustainable improvements.

**Review and Monitoring:**

- This policy is reviewed annually or as necessary, ensuring alignment with EYFS guidelines and evolving sustainability best practices.

- Feedback from stakeholders is actively sought to continuously refine and improve our environmental and sustainability efforts.

**Alignment with EYFS 2025 Changes:**

- This policy integrates EYFS 2025 updates, emphasising environmental responsibility, sustainable practices, and children's holistic development.

Signed: Chrissie Day

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2025