

Sustainability Policy (Aligned with EYFS September 2025 Reforms)

Policy Statement:

At Butterlies Nursery, we are committed to promoting sustainability and environmental responsibility within our setting. We recognise the importance of educating children about the natural world and encouraging positive behaviours that contribute to a healthier planet. This policy outlines our approach to integrating sustainable practices into our daily routines and teaching, helping children develop respect for the environment and a sense of global citizenship.

Our Commitment to Sustainability:

- We aim to reduce waste, conserve energy and water, and promote recycling and reuse throughout our setting.
- We actively seek opportunities to teach children about the environment, nature, and sustainable living.
- Our sustainability approach is embedded in our routines, planning, and activities.

Reducing Waste:

- We minimise the use of single-use plastics and encourage the use of reusable containers, cutlery, and water bottles.
- Where possible, we use recyclable, biodegradable, or compostable materials.
- We encourage children to be mindful of waste and to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Energy and Water Conservation:

- We promote energy efficiency by turning off lights, appliances, and devices when not in use.
- Water-saving practices are encouraged during handwashing and cleaning routines.
- The setting uses energy-efficient bulbs and equipment wherever possible.

Recycling and Reuse:

- Recycling bins are used for paper, plastics, and other materials.

- Children are encouraged to participate in recycling and understand how it helps the environment.
- We repurpose everyday items for arts, crafts, and play activities to give materials a second life.

Eco-Friendly Resources:

- We source sustainable, non-toxic, and ethically produced toys and learning materials where possible.
- We use natural materials in play and learning, such as wood, fabric, and recycled items.
- We review our suppliers to ensure they align with our environmental values.

Gardening and Nature Activities:

- Children are given opportunities to grow plants, fruit, and vegetables to learn about nature and food sources.
- We incorporate nature walks, bug hunts, and outdoor learning to foster a love for the environment.
- Composting is encouraged for appropriate food and garden waste.

Involving Children and Families:

- We include sustainability education in our activities to raise children's awareness about caring for the planet.
- Parents and carers are encouraged to support sustainability at home by bringing reusable items and sharing eco-friendly ideas.
- We share updates and tips through newsletters or displays about our sustainable practices.

Reducing Carbon Footprint:

- We encourage walking, cycling, or car-sharing where possible to reduce transport-related emissions.
- Outings are planned locally to minimise travel impact.
- Digital communication is prioritised over printed materials when possible.

Alignment with EYFS 2025 Changes:

This policy reflects the EYFS 2025 emphasis on creating learning environments that promote health, wellbeing, and environmental

responsibility. It supports the framework's goals of helping children understand the world, develop empathy, and make positive contributions to their communities. Sustainability education aligns with EYFS learning and development areas, particularly Understanding the World and Personal, Social, and Emotional Development.

Review and Monitoring:

- This policy will be reviewed annually or more frequently if required, to ensure it remains effective and reflects best practices.
- Feedback from parents, staff, and children is welcome to help us improve and evolve our sustainability efforts.

Signed: Chrissie Day

Date: 2nd July, 2025