# **Eco Policy**

## **Statement of Intent**

To ensure that West Wycombe Preschool, staff, children and parents have an awareness of and understanding of the effects of their actions upon the environment in which we live, work and play. We need to take responsibility for our actions and have a sense of duty and care for the world in which we live.

## **Aim**

## To raise awareness of how to reduce our impact on the environment around us and the ways that children in our care can be encouraged to grow up with a good knowledge on how to best protect the environment and world around them.

## **Methods**

Our Designated Sustainability Lead is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

We encourage both staff and pupils to think about their environment and how their actions impact upon the national and global picture. To this end we encourage and reinforce environmental education in all aspects of everyday life and the wider community.

The ways in which we work towards this goal is to reduce the amount of materials we use and produce, recycle and re-use materials wherever possible, restore what is deemed to have been destroyed and respect our neighbours and our environment.

**Reduce**

**Energy**

* We will switch off lights when they are not in use.
* We will make sure we turn off taps when they are no longer needed. Children only have access to censored taps to prevent over use of water.
* Turn the photocopier onto sleep mode when not in use.
* Turn all appliances off at the wall when not in use.
* Turn off all heating at the end of the day or when on holiday. Heating will be limited to a maximum of 21 degrees celsius to avoid over use.

**Paper**

We will reduce the amount of paper we use by:-

* Only printing essential documents/photographs from the computer
* Where possible use the double sided printing option to reduce the amount of paper used
* To send parents/carers information by email
* To use donated scrap paper in the classrooms or paper from recycled sources such as the Refresh company.

**Transport**

* To encourage our pupils to walk to school or if using a vehicle for it to be parked at the Walled Garden or safe areas of the village to reduce parking anywhere near school. A buggy/ bike shelter is provided to provide easy storage for eco friendly community options.
* We will consider our carbon footprint when placing orders & aim to buy in bulk to reduce our carbon footprint & travel miles that could have an impact on our environment. Where possible, we will consider buying local produce to reduce our impact on the environment.

**Plastics**

We discourage the use of single use plastics where possible, encouraging all children to bring a reusable & refillable water bottle from home. We highlight to parents the message about single use plastics in the children's lunch boxes & encourage them to buy a box of crackers, for example & fill a washable container with a handful rather than buying prepackaged food cartons that can not be easily recycled. To encourage a whole setting approach, the staff team will also be encouraged to act in such a mindful manner when preparing foods to eat.

The use of single use plastic nappy sacks will be limited to dirty nappies only where possible. Parents will be encouraged to provide a bag that can be reused for wet clothes from water or messy play.

**Re-use**

**Snack**

* We will endeavor to compost snacks and remains of the children’s lunch. We have a food waste caddy bin in each classroom and the kitchen.
* Food donations via the ‘Foodiverse’ scheme will support the local community to reduce the food waste. The donated food will be used by the children for snack and any excess offered to parents and other community members to use.

**Gardening**

* Gardening waste will be disposed of appropriately. A short term aim will be to have a compost bin to make our own compost for use on the gardening beds.
* The children will be encouraged to partake in gardening activities to encourage awareness of where their food comes from and what it needs to grow. Any food produced on site will be used by the children in their healthy snack options.
* Understand why we harvest rainwater & reuse it to nurture the plants

**Donated materials**

* We will always endeavour to use donated materials/items and where uses cannot be found, we will endeavour to recycle it.

**Paper**

* We use scrap paper/donated paper in the classrooms
* Paper will be used on both sides wherever possible.
* Larger paper such as backing paper and boarders on displays will be reused where possible.

**Recycle**

At West Wycombe Pre-School we recycle a range of materials:

* Paper is collected in a box in the office and a separate collection bin in the art room
* We recycle everyday materials and dispose of them in the recycling bin for collection.
* A short term aim is to increase the types of materials we can recycle to include plastics and tins.

**Restore**

* The children are able to study flora and fauna in their habitat in both the garden areas and on local walks. Children will be encouraged to return all living creatures to their original habitat.
* Areas disturbed by sport, by accident, or by malicious damage will if possible be restored to its original condition.
* Children will be encouraged to treat all school equipment with respect. Books and other equipment will be repaired wherever possible.

**Respect**

* Our first and most important pre-school rule is that we will respect one another. This rule will permeate all we do whether it is discussing global issues, welcoming people of different races, faiths, abilities or dealing on a daily basis with each other.
* We will extend this respect to the environment and all living creatures.

**Outdoor Environment**

Research shows that being in the outdoor environment has a significant effect on children. The Pre-School gardens are the one external environment to which all children have regular access, and in some instances they may provide the only regular experience of the outdoors. They may provide unique experiences, opportunities and resources for teaching and learning in a safe and supervised external environment. We aim for our grounds to be a stimulating and enjoyable place for work and play.

We encourage the children and assist them with planting flowers, vegetables and to care for their growth with watering and tending them. We use & describe to the children a water butt & the benefits to us harvesting rain water to use when watering the garden.

This policy was adopted by West Wycombe Pre-School Playgroup in July 2025. Policies are updated when necessary and reviewed on a yearly basis.