

Whitley Lodge Under Fives

Environmental sustainability policy and climate action plan

Environmental sustainability policy was adopted by Whitley Lodge Under Fives on 5/9/2025

Statement of intent

The Department for Education (DfE) strategy states that: *'By 2025, all education settings will have nominated a sustainability lead and put in place a climate action plan'*. 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
- Appoint sustainability lead

For Whitley Lodge Under Fives these pillars inform our activities in terms of:

Decarbonisation:

Our activities to reduce plastic use

Our activities to reduce utility usage

Biodiversity:

Fostering children's empathy with nature through exploration

Engaging with flora and fauna in the setting and outings to local community spaces

Developing green spaces including garden and planting area

Through age appropriate activities, teach the children about caring for our planet

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

Our pre-school actively promotes environmental sustainability.

Our eco-sustainability lead who is the Climate Champion for our setting is: **Amy Kennedy**

Changing perspectives – at Whitley Lodge Under Fives 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 – ask ourselves could this be done in a more sustainable way.
- Display our sustainability policy and educate and inform others on the steps that we are taking.

Objectives

At Whitley Lodge Under Fives 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.
- Talk to children about clothing in different weathers and why we need to wear sun-cream in hot weather
- Adaptation and resilience
 - educating children about weather patterns, seasonal changes and environmental stewardship
 - integrating more outdoor learning experiences to connect children with nature
 - encouraging water conservation through mindful use in daily activities
 - Turn lights off when not in use

At pre-school we support children to learn about sustainability - to respect and care for both the living and non-living environment.

Children have the opportunity at pre-school 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, for example growing our own snack, planting, outdoor learning and teaching children to care for their environment.

Examples of ways that we will embed sustainability and climate change 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.
- 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.
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Cutting down on waste by reducing, reusing and recycling:

- Use the recycling bins on the school site - following the local recycling scheme guidance.
- Take 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.
- If the setting has a 'uniform' for children, recycle to new families.
- Encourage families to donate pre-loved clothes, books and toys to charity shops, refugee support groups or to the setting.
- When purchasing new resources, we look for natural rather than plastic.
- Use natural resources such as water with care – ensure taps are turned off and any leaks fixed.
- Recycle water from water play by using it to water plants.

Minimising food waste:

- 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.
- Educate children not to drop litter.

- Care for the setting environment indoors and out.
- Discover the importance of wildlife to the environment and eco system.
- Use natural resources.
- We shop locally where possible.
- Minimising waste through recycling and reusing materials in learning and play
- We encourage families to walk, cycle, scoot to our setting.
- We go on nature walks and learn about plants we see in our local area.

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>