



Environmental Sustainability Policy

Updated September 2024

At Briar Dene Childcare, we are committed to promoting environmental sustainability and encouraging eco-friendly practices. We recognise our responsibility to reduce our environmental impact and teach the next generation the importance of caring for our planet. Our Environmental Sustainability Policy outlines the actions we are taking to protect the environment while fostering environmental awareness in the children we care for.

This policy aims to:

- Reduce the nursery's environmental footprint.
- Educate children, staff, and families on the importance of sustainability.
- Incorporate sustainable practices into the nursery's daily operations.
- Encourage eco-friendly behaviours that contribute to long-term environmental protection.

Sustainable Practices:

We are committed to implementing environmentally sustainable practices throughout our nursery. These practices include but are not limited to:

- **Waste Reduction:**
 - Reduce waste through careful planning and resource management.
 - Recycle paper, plastic, and other materials as much as possible.
 - Use reusable containers, cups, and utensils where applicable.
 - Compost organic waste such as food scraps and garden waste.
- **Energy Efficiency:**
 - Use energy-efficient lighting and appliances in the nursery.
 - Encourage staff to turn off lights and electrical equipment when not in use.
 - Maintain heating, cooling, and electrical systems to ensure they operate efficiently.
- **Water Conservation:**
 - Encourage the use of water-saving devices, such as low-flow taps and toilets.
 - Educate children and staff on the importance of using water responsibly.
 - Repair any leaks promptly to prevent water wastage.
- **Eco-Friendly Cleaning Products:**
 - Use non-toxic, biodegradable cleaning products to reduce harmful chemical exposure.
 - Minimise the use of disposable cleaning items such as paper towels by opting for reusable alternatives.
- **Sustainable Purchasing:**

- Prioritise buying eco-friendly products such as recycled paper, natural paints, and sustainably sourced materials.
- Purchase environmentally friendly toys and educational materials when possible.
- Ensure that food served at the nursery is sourced responsibly, including locally grown and organic options when available.

Sustainability in Early Childhood Education:

We believe that educating children about sustainability is an essential part of their development. Our practices include:

- Teaching children about nature, the environment, and sustainability through outdoor play and eco-friendly activities.
- Encouraging children to develop an awareness of natural resources and the importance of conservation.
- Promoting activities that engage children with the environment, such as gardening, recycling, and nature walks.

Staff Involvement:

All staff members are encouraged to actively participate in our environmental sustainability efforts. We provide training to help staff:

- Understand and implement sustainable practices in the nursery.
- Create lesson plans that teach sustainability concepts to children.
- Share ideas for reducing waste, conserving energy, and promoting eco-friendly behaviours.

Engaging Families:

We believe that creating a sustainable future is a community effort. We will engage parents and guardians by:

- Providing information on how they can contribute to sustainability both at home and at the nursery.
- Organising workshops or events that highlight the importance of environmental sustainability.
- Encouraging families to adopt eco-friendly habits and share their own sustainability practices with the nursery.

Monitoring and Review:

We will regularly review our sustainability practices to ensure that they are effective and aligned with our goals. This includes:

- Conducting annual reviews of energy, water, and waste consumption.
- Setting measurable targets for reducing environmental impact and improving sustainability.

- Involving children, staff, and families in discussions about sustainability and gathering feedback on improvements.

Our environmental sustainability practices are an ongoing effort. We are committed to continually improving our policies and practices to ensure that we create a greener, more sustainable future for the children in our care. This policy reflects our dedication to environmental sustainability and aims to provide a positive, eco-conscious experience for the children, families, and staff of Briar Dene Childcare.

Review of Policy:

This policy will be reviewed annually (September 2025), or as needed, to ensure that it remains relevant and effective in meeting the evolving needs of the children, families, and staff within the nursery.

Name:	Position:	Signed:	Date:
David Birkbeck	Owner		
Kayleigh Tydd	Director		
Greg Bamber	Nominated Individual		
Zoe Tydd	Manager & DSL		
Abbie Lloyd	Deputy Manager		
Jade Radcliffe	Second Deputy Manager		
Pamela Lear	Practitioner		
Diane Jones	Practitioner		
Emily Gautrey	Practitioner		