

53. Environmental Sustainability Policy

Version number	Dates produced and approved	Reason for production and revision	Author	Locations	Proposed next review date
V1.0	20/11/2025	New policy written in response to the Department of Education's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy	Catherine Mason	Dropbox	20/11/2026

Statement of intent

North Nibley Preschool acknowledges that climate change is having a significant impact on the environment. We recognise our responsibility to future generations and commit to promoting environmental sustainability and educating our children the importance of having a deep respect and care for living and non-living environments. We aim to minimise our environmental impact by supporting our children to understand, respect and protect their environment.

Aims and objectives

This policy outlines our approach to environmental sustainability, referring to our Climate Action Plan and our operational practices, following the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework 2024, Ofsted requirements and the Department of Education's (DfE) Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.

Through this policy, we aim to:

- Provide children with opportunities to learn about and connect with the natural world
- Develop children's understanding of environmental issues and sustainable practices
- Reduce preschool's environmental footprint
- Role model sustainable behaviours and attitudes
- Create an environmentally conscious culture among children, staff, and families

- Support children's understanding of the interdependence between people and the environment

In the setting

At North Nibley Preschool we will promote and explore ideas and practices for environmental sustainability by:

Connecting with and exploring the outside environment

- Helping children to explore nature through art, play and sensory experiences
- Going on regular nature walks and learning about plants and wildlife in the local area
- Supporting children to experience the natural environment through natural materials like wood, sand and soil
- Encouraging respect for living things and habitats

Understanding Natural Systems

- Supporting the environment by learning how to grow and nurture plants in the garden
- Discovering the food cycle by harvesting and cooking food for activities
- Learning about seasonal changes and weather patterns
- Exploring lifecycles of plants and animals

Sustainable Practices

- Helping children to learn about water conservation and waste reduction through play-based activities and adult interactions
- Teaching children about the concepts of reducing, reusing and recycling through practical activities

Operational Sustainability Practices

At preschool, we will aim to embed sustainability into all aspects of our operations including:

Resource Use and Waste Management

- Recycling materials for art and creative activities and encouraging parents to bring in their recycling materials for the same use
- Reducing single-use plastics

Energy Conservation

- Turning off equipment and lights when not in use
- Not leaving any equipment on standby
- Unplugging all equipment at the end of its use/the day

Water Conservation

- Incorporating water-wise strategies such as ensuring taps are turned off and leaks reported promptly
- Teaching children about the importance of water conservation

Further information

North Nibley Preschool's Climate Action Plan