

New Millside Pre-school

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY & PROCEDURE



Purpose

To embed sustainable practices into daily preschool operations, teaching children respect for the environment and modelling responsible resource use.

This policy applies to all staff, children, families, and visitors within the preschool community.

Policy Statement

Our preschool is committed to:

- Reducing waste and conserving resources.
- Teaching children sustainable habits through play and learning.
- Creating a healthy, eco-friendly environment.
- Partnering with families and the wider community to promote sustainability.

Key Principles

- **Education & Awareness:** Sustainability is integrated into the curriculum through stories, activities, and discussions.
- **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle:** Materials are reused where possible, and recycling bins are available in classrooms.
- **Energy Efficiency:** Lights, heating, and appliances are used mindfully.
- **Water Conservation:** Children are taught to turn taps off and use water responsibly.
- **Healthy Environment:** Preference for non-toxic cleaning products and eco-friendly supplies.
- **Community Engagement:** Families are encouraged to participate in sustainability initiatives.

Procedures

Waste Management

- **Recycling:** Provide clearly labelled bins for paper, plastics, and general waste. Children are encouraged to sort items with staff guidance.
- **Reuse:** Craft materials such as cardboard, fabric scraps, and paper offcuts are reused for creative projects.

Wormery:

- A wormery is maintained as part of the preschool's sustainability program.
- Suitable food waste (fruit and vegetable scraps, tea bags, small amounts of bread or pasta) is fed to the worms.
- Children are involved in feeding the worms and observing how they turn waste into nutrient-rich "worm castings."
- Worm compost is used for classroom plants and the preschool garden, showing children the cycle of waste-to-growth.

Education: Staff explain to children the difference between recycling and wormery waste. Visual charts are displayed to help children understand what goes where.

Energy Use

- Switch off lights and equipment when not in use.
- Use natural light and ventilation where possible.
- Monitor heating/cooling to avoid unnecessary energy use.

Water Conservation

- Install child-friendly taps to reduce water waste.
- Teach children to use only what they need when washing hands or watering plants.

Sustainable Curriculum

- Include nature walks, gardening, and eco-themed activities.
- Use books and songs that promote care for the environment.
- Celebrate events like Earth Day with special projects.

Printing Practices

- Print double-sided where possible to reduce paper usage.
- Limit the number of weekly printouts for worksheet activities by prioritizing hands-on, play-based, and digital learning methods.
- Encourage staff to review documents digitally before printing.
- Laminate where possible so printed worksheets and activity resources can be reused multiple times.

Community & Family Involvement

- Share sustainability tips in newsletters.
- Ask families to donate suitable items (e.g., recyclable materials for crafts, plants for the garden, or child-friendly garden tools).

Roles & Responsibilities

- **Staff:** Model sustainable practices, guide children, and monitor compliance.
- **Children:** Participate in activities and learn sustainable habits.
- **Families:** Support sustainability initiatives at home and in preschool.
- **Management:** Review policy annually, provide resources, and ensure procedures are followed.

Monitoring & Review

- Conduct quarterly audits of waste, energy, and water use.
- Gather feedback from staff and families.
- Update policy annually to reflect new practices or regulations.