

HARPOLE PRE-SCHOOL

"Kind Hands, Kind Hearts, Fun Learning"

4.8 Environmental Sustainability Policy
Policy & Procedure

Harpole Preschool has adopted the Preschool Learning Alliance (PLA) policy in regard to the above. The PLA ensure that their policies adhere to statutory guidance and legislative procedure and they provide the preschool with any updates. All policies and procedures are ratified by the Preschool Trustees on a rolling programme. The preschool staff, led by Sharon Matthews, ensure that their practice is in line with the policies and procedures outlined in the PLA guidance.

Policy statement

Harpole Preschool aim to carry out and deliver sustainable practices that support the government in their net zero carbon foot print target and show our commitment to the wider sustainable living movement. 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'*. Harpole Pre-school's nominated Sustainability Lead is Kirsten Grundy. The 4 key pillars that represent aspects of addressing climate change to foster a sustainable future are:

- Decarbonisation
  - Our activities to reduce plastic use
  - Our activities to reduce utility usage
  - Encouraging sustainable transport to and from the provision
- Biodiversity
  - Fostering children's empathy with nature through exploration
  - Engaging with flora and fauna in the setting and outings to local community spaces
- Climate education and green careers goals
  - 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 adaptation
  - 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

Aims

Our aim is to encourage the children, parents and staff to engage with the natural environment and to foster respect and care for our natural world through developing positive attitudes and values with regard to sustainable practices. Children within our setting will develop sustainable habits through exploring and learning about the challenges that face our natural world and through watching adults as role model. Through our curriculum and our day-to-day actions we aim to set up our children as sustainable thinkers that encourage others to consider their environment footprint in the actions that they take.

Curriculum

Through our curriculum we hope to develop the children's understanding, respect and care for the natural world. In addition, many of our activities will include a sustainable element to encourage learning sustainable actions through exploration and play.

1. Within the setting our outdoor area has access to gardening and resources to encourage hunting for minibeasts.
2. We offer a termly Outdoor Explorer week in which an expert delivers 2 sessions to each preschool child and takes them to explore the local area and to engage in activities that encourage an understanding and respect for the natural environment.
3. Weekly, we aim to take children out of the setting to explore their local environment.
4. Within our activities, as well as our outdoor access, we aim to provide an activity that connects the children to the world around them. This could be through our daily discussions regarding the weather, a story, our music sessions or through a planned activity.
5. In our role play areas we include sustainable actions such as recycling bins in the home corner.
6. During seasonal change topics we develop activities and opportunities for the children to explore the natural environment to see these changes first hand.

In addition to our day to day curriculum we take part in national and local events that link to the natural environment and to sustainable practices. These events include…

- The Big Garden Birdwatch
- World Water Day
- World Bee Day
- Sustainability weeks
- Recycle Week
- Energy Saving Week
- Walk to school week
- Earth Day

This list names a few event that we aim to be involved in but is not exhaustive and will develop and grow with the interests of the children, their parents and the staff as well as with the wider community.

Food

We understand that reducing food miles supports the reduction of our carbon footprint and as such, where possible we will source food items locally and ethically. In addition to considering the food miles, we will also make efforts to consider the methods of food production and the potential food waste for the snacks that we purchase and serve.

To reduce food miles and to develop the children's understanding of food generation we will grow and use food items within the setting as much as possible.

Energy

We understand the need to reduce our carbon footprint through reducing our use of electricity and gas. To support our energy reduction we …

1. Switch off unused electrical items.
2. We keep doors and windows shut where possible to reduce heat loss when necessary.
3. All lights and electrical equipment are labeled to encourage everyone to switch them off when items are not in use.
4. Where possible we purchase low energy use electrical equipment.
5. Lights are installed with energy saving light bulbs.

We ensure that all learners and staff are informed of the importance of adopting sustainable practices regarding energy consumption.

We have installed a smart meter in line with the government's recommendations. This will enable us to keep track of our energy usage. We will use the data gathered from this smart meter to identify potential actions to reduce our energy consumption

Water

The need to save water during a water shortage is apparent, however we also understand that providing clean water involves energy use and therefore we understand the need to reduce our water usage even in times of apparent water abundance. To do this we …

- Turn off taps when not in use.
- Our taps are all labeled to encourage all to switch them off when not in use.
- We collect rainwater in a water butt for use on our garden and gardening area.
- We reuse water that has been use in play for watering the garden.
- We save washing up to ensure we wash up numerous items at once rather than washing up lots of items regularly.

Waste

Our aim is to reduce the amount of waste that we put into our general waste collection. We do this through considering reducing, reusing and recycling our waste.

- We encourage the use of both sides of the paper and the use of scrap paper.
- We provide labeled recycling bins.
- We take larger waste items to the Reuse and Recycling Centers.
- We collect other non household recyclables such as batteries and light bulbs for recycling.
- We recycle food waste from breakfast club and when producing snack.
- We are looking into recycling all food waste generated on site.

- Where possible we encourage children to take lunch waste home for recycling.
- We will consider if it will be possible for us to compost as part of the garden redevelopment.

Travel

We will supporting sustainable travel to the setting through our newsletter and during walk to school week. We encourage walking, cycling and the use of other methods of transport, other than personal petrol vehicles, to travel to preschool where possible.

Other sustainable activities

In addition to the above activities, Harpole Preschool source secondhand toys and resources where possible and encourage the second hand use of any working items we no longer use.

This policy was adopted by	Harpole Pre-school	*(Name of provider)*
On		*(date)*
Date to be reviewed		*(date)*
Signed on behalf of the provider		
Name of signatory		
Role of signatory		