

Our Environment Policy

'To create a more sustainable future, we need to learn to tread lightly and carefully and become aware of the footprints we leave around the globe. We have a responsibility to use resources sustainably, we have a responsibility to teach children how to manage their lives without depleting the planet, and we have a responsibility to save energy and other consumables.'

At Bright Beginnings we have established a framework to support environmentally sustainable education as central to our learning in the centre whilst promoting a greater understanding and awareness of environmental issues.

We work to achieve this by Reducing, Re-Using and Recycling in our everyday activities, being energy efficient, engage in outdoor learning, developing an understanding of the impact our nursery has on the environment, and by empowering the children to take responsibility for their actions.

To reduce, we:

- Wash only full loads of dirty laundry
- Buy provisions/resources in bulk
- Monitor how much photocopying we carryout
- Print on both sides of paper where appropriate
- When printing colour photographs print 2 A4 sheets on 1 A3 size paper
- Use electronic communication with parents wherever possible
- Facilitate the use of non-disposable nappies
- We have a fresh air cooling system – with opening windows
- Provide bicycle storage to encourage and support our staff to cycle to work
- Discounted bus/train tickets to support staff
- Car sharing scheme
- Reduced parking costs depending on vehicle emissions
- Use an electronic profiling system for our children

To re-use, we:

- Reuse plastic pots/bottles
- Use refillable bottles for drinks on outings
- Collect food boxes and cartons e.g. egg cartons, cereal boxes, to use in junk modelling activities
- Collect small items e.g. milk bottle tops, hole punch dots, and wool to use in collage activities
- Reuse glass jars in Playscheme activities
- Liaise with University of Leeds Sustainability team to collect and reuse resources for University departments

To recycle, we:

- Have recycle bins throughout the centre, encouraging all children to recycle various

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- materials
- Empty our recycle bins and discuss with our children why we recycle
- Where possible buy expendable materials and provisions in recyclable materials and/or packaging

To be energy efficient, we:

- We have motion sensor lighting
- Thermostatically controlled underfloor heating throughout the centre
- We have grey water toilets
- Use water containers for water play
- Report any dripping taps to be repaired
- Switch off pc monitors that are not being used
- Switch off electrical appliances that are not being used.
- Close all windows at night
- Spin washing at highest cycle and reduce washing temperatures
- Where possible we purchase energy efficient appliances

To engage in outdoor learning, we:

- Encourage the children to plant, nurture, pick, clean and eat the foods they grow
- Grow organically and don't use any pesticides or herbicides
- Plan our calendar so that we have something to eat at different times of the year
- Encourage natural predators such as birds or ladybirds to manage pest control
- Invite parent gardener's into nursery to share their knowledge and help us to maintain all our garden areas
- Provide tasting sessions and have discussions about freshly grown fruity and veg
- Plant and nurture our plants and flowers
- Use "found" and natural materials and resources for play and learning
- Use life cycle resources for developing an understanding of nature, wildlife and mini beasts

Using sustainable food sources, we:

- Where possible use local sources/suppliers
- Source sustainable fish to compliment and support our menu planning
- Utilise seasonal fruit and vegetables
- Consider waste / composting

This Policy was adopted on	13 th July 2017
Signed on behalf of the Centre	Fiona Hakin
Date for review	13 th July 2018