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## *Climate Change and Sustainability Plan*

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This Climate Action Plan has been developed to directly support and deliver on our setting's Climate Change and Sustainability Policy. It provides a clear, structured framework that translates our commitments into practical actions across daily operations, curriculum, and community involvement. By aligning with the DfE Sustainability Strategy (2025) and Essex County Council's climate priorities, the plan ensures that our policy is not only a statement of intent but also a living, actionable guide for staff, children, and families to work together in creating a more sustainable future.

### **Governance & Leadership**

**Objective: Embed sustainability as a core principle in nursery operations, decision-making, and curriculum.**

Nominate a Sustainability Lead among staff to oversee the Climate Action Plan.

Review policy annually with staff, children, and families to ensure continuous improvement.

Engage with ECC's ESCAN (Essex Schools' Climate Action Network) for local projects and training.

Include sustainability in staff induction and ongoing professional development.

### **Decarbonisation (Reducing Carbon Impact)**

**Objective: Reduce energy consumption, waste, and reliance on carbon-intensive resources.**

Monitor energy use monthly; share results with staff and children to build awareness.

Continue using LED lighting and reinforce "switch off" routines with staff and children.

Expand digital communication to further reduce paper usage.

Replace disposable products (where safe and practical) with reusable alternatives.

Audit procurement practices — prioritise eco-friendly, local, and bulk suppliers.

Create child-friendly "Energy Helpers" roles to check lights and taps during the day

### **Adaptation & resilience (Preparing for Climate Change Risks)**

**Objective: Ensure the nursery is prepared for and resilient to climate-related risks.**

Implement and regularly review the Heatwave Response Plan (hydration, shade, cool spaces).

Track and record local weather events that affect nursery operations; adapt routines accordingly.

Train staff annually on safeguarding children during extreme weather conditions.

## **Biodiversity & Nature Engagement**

**Objective: Build children’s connection with nature and foster biodiversity in nursery spaces.**

Maintain and expand garden planting (vegetables, flowers, pollinator-friendly species).

Introduce seasonal “garden champions” among children to take responsibility for watering and care.

Strengthen wildlife support through bug hotels, bird feeders, and log piles.

Plan weekly eco-adventures (nature walks, scavenger hunts, outdoor learning sessions).

Host family eco-days (tree planting, pond dipping, garden clean-ups).

## **Climate Education & Green Thinking**

**Objective: Integrate sustainability into curriculum and daily routines.**

Embed eco-phrases (“We care for our world”) in daily conversations with children.

Use eco-themed stories, books, and songs to support climate literacy.

Celebrate annual events such as Earth Day and Recycle Week with themed activities.

Develop child-led eco-projects (e.g., making recycled art, growing herbs).

Link and embed our curriculum with sustainability (Understanding the World, PSED, Communication and Language).

Provide children with opportunities to share eco-messages with families (posters, storytelling).

## **Staff and Community Involvement**

**Objective: Build a whole-community approach to sustainability.**

Include staff reflection sessions on eco-practice (energy, waste, resources) into staff meetings.

Share sustainability tips and updates via newsletters and noticeboards.

Encourage families to donate recyclable/reusable items for craft and play.

Organise seasonal eco-workshops (upcycling crafts, sustainable cooking).

Involve parents in climate action volunteering days.

Celebrate community success stories (e.g., newsletter features on families' eco-actions).

## Monitoring and Evaluation

**Objective: Track progress, celebrate success, and identify areas for improvement.**

Involve children in measuring and celebrating small wins (e.g., number of plants grown, amount of recycling collected).

Conduct an annual review of the Climate Action Plan with staff and parents.

Report progress to families and at local cluster meetings

This action plan ensures the nursery is not only reducing its environmental impact but also fostering a culture of sustainability in children, staff, and families. It makes climate action visible, practical, and achievable at an early years level.