

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Policy Statement

At Box Pre School Playgroup we are committed to fostering a culture of care and respect for the environment. We recognise that small steps can lead to big changes, and that early years education is the foundation for nurturing environmentally responsible citizens. We are committed to embedding sustainable practices in our daily routines, curriculum, and community engagement.

Our aim is to reduce our environmental impact, teach children about sustainability, and take meaningful action against climate change in ways that are age-appropriate, practical, and linked to the EYFS areas of learning.

Our sustainability lead is Yvonne Jenkinson.

Guiding Principles

1. **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle** - promote sustainable use of resources.
2. **Model Sustainable Behaviour** - staff lead by example.
3. **Empower Children** - encourage curiosity, discussion, and action.
4. **Community Involvement** - engage families in sustainable practices.
5. **Continuous Improvement** - review progress annually.

Climate Action Plan

1. Energy & Resources

- Ensure lights and electrical appliances are switched off when not in use.
- Encourage staff and families to use reusable bottles, containers, and bags.
- Print only when necessary; reuse scrap paper for mark-making and craft.

EYFS Links:

- *Understanding the World* (awareness of environmental impact).
- *Personal, Social & Emotional Development (PSED)* (responsible choices, caring for shared spaces).

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2. Waste Reduction & Recycling

- Provide recycling bins for paper and plastic
- Use junk modelling with clean recyclables for creative play.
- Encourage families to donate unwanted materials for loose parts play.

EYFS Links:

- *Expressive Arts & Design* (using recycled materials creatively).
- *Communication & Language* (discussions about recycling and waste).

3. Outdoor & Nature Opportunities

Given the small outdoor area we will:

- Use planters, pots, and vertical gardening (e.g., wall-mounted herb gardens).
- Grow seasonal plants, herbs, and sensory-friendly greenery.
- Create small bug hotels and observe minibeasts to encourage biodiversity.
- Use water play responsibly, reusing water for plants where safe.

EYFS Links:

- *Physical Development* (planting, digging, fine/gross motor skills).
- *Understanding the World* (life cycles, seasons, nature care).

4. Sustainable Learning & Play

- Story time: include books that focus on nature, seasons, recycling, and climate action.
- Role play: create "eco-shops" or "recycling stations" in play.
- Science experiments: explore water cycles, melting/freezing, wind, and light.
- Music: use natural or recycled instruments.

EYFS Links:

- *Literacy* (eco-themed stories).

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- *Mathematics* (counting seeds, measuring plant growth).
- *Expressive Arts & Design* (creative activities using natural/recycled items).

5. Healthy & Sustainable Choices

- Encourage healthy snacks with minimal packaging.
- Educate children on the importance of water for health and the planet.
- Promote "walking to preschool" days where possible.

EYFS Links:

- *Physical Development* (healthy eating, active travel).
- *PSED* (making healthy, sustainable choices).

6. Community & Family Engagement

- Share sustainability tips in newsletters.
- Invite parents to join in with "green projects" (e.g., bring in recyclables, grow-at-home seeds).
- Celebrate Earth Day, World Environment Day, and other eco events with themed activities.

EYFS Links:

- *Communication & Language* (sharing ideas, asking questions).
- *PSED* (community belonging and shared responsibility).

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