

## 16. Environmental Sustainability Policy

At La Petite Academy we wish to support children to learn about sustainable practices and foster respect and care for the living and non-living environment. We accept and welcome our responsibilities within the Government's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy for education providers. (<https://bit.ly/sustainability-and-climate-change-strategy>)

The Environmental Sustainability Lead is Seren Brown.

We provide opportunities for children to develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the importance of nature, sustainability, and the causes and impact of climate change through their learned and lived experiences. Children are able to develop positive attitudes and values about sustainable practices by exploring solutions to environmental issues, learning about the world around them and how to protect it and watching adults role model positive sustainable actions and solutions.

We promote a holistic, open-ended curriculum which explores ideas and practices for environmental sustainability and helps children understand the interdependence between people and the environment by:

- Helping children to spend time in nature, and explore it through art and play
- Supporting children to experience the natural environment through natural materials like wood, stone, sand and recycled materials
- We provide opportunities for children to develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the importance of nature, sustainability and the causes and impact of climate change through their learned and lived experiences.
- Supporting the environment by learning how to grow and nurture plants in the nursery garden and discovering all about the food cycle by growing, harvesting and cooking food for our nursery menu
- Helping children to learn about water conservation, energy efficiency and waste reduction through play-based activities and adult interactions
- Going on nature walks and learning about plants wildlife and habitats they see in the local area
- Encouraging parents and children to regularly walk cycle or scoot to nursery to raise the awareness of caring for the planet
- Encouraging children to become actively involved in the improvement of their local environment, such as by developing a recycling area and encouraging children to share a recycling ethos in the home environment.

As a nursery we will embed sustainability into all aspects of the operations including:

- Recycling materials for art and creative activities and encouraging parents to bring in their recycling materials for the same use (we do not accept toilet roll inners for hygiene and restrict packages containing foodstuffs linked to children's allergies such as egg and dairy)
- Ensuring parents recycle children's take-home recycled material models, if they do not keep them
- Have a recycling bin for each age group and the office to more easily recycle paper and cardboard
- Have a food waste weekly collection for all food waste and scraps, including those from staff lunches as well as children's meals
- Considering our carbon footprint when purchasing materials
- Shopping locally where possible
- Turning off equipment and lights when not in use
- Using energy saving light bulbs
- Not leaving any equipment on standby over periods of shutdown
- Unplugging all equipment at the end of its use/the day where appropriate
- Using energy saving wash cycles on the washing machine
- Hanging washing out to dry and/or using clothes horses rather than tumble dryers where possible
- Incorporating water-wise strategies such as ensuring taps are turned off and leaks fixed promptly
- Using potable water rainwater butts for outdoor water play where possible
- Recycling water from the water play to water plants outside
- Growing food in the sensory garden
- Recycling kitchen/delivery packaging

Working together with all our parents and partners will help our environment to be more sustainable and make it a better place for our future generations to grow up in.

We assess our nursery's impact on the environment on a regular basis and put procedures in place to counteract this impact.

In order to encourage children not to waste food or to play with food at mealtimes, we discourage the use of food as a play material, in line with our

Nutrition and Mealtime policy; instead, we encourage activities which involve preparing and tasting different types of food.

This policy is reviewed regularly and is carefully considered in line with the DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy and the best interests of the children, nursery and the environment.

<b>This policy was adopted on</b>	<b>Signed on behalf of the nursery</b>	<b>Date for review</b>
27/03/26	<i>Seren Brown</i>	30/04/30