



**Tillingham Pre-school**

**Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Early Years Sustainability Policy**

Three-pillar approach - Environmental, Social, and Economic sustainability

## **Sustainability Policy**

### **Sustainability Lead – Karen Tuckey & Emma Winfield**

#### **Aim**

At Tillingham Preschool we aim to develop an environmental management system, educating children through age-appropriate activities, promoting social responsibility and cultural inclusivity, and ensuring the economic viability of early years providers. Key actions include creating a sustainability pledge, incorporating sustainability into the curriculum, and raising awareness among children and families.

#### **Objective**

At Tillingham Preschool we are committed to protecting our planet for the next generations to the best of our ability by:

- Reducing the use of plastics – in particular single use plastics (SUPs) in our everyday lives
- Cutting down on waste by reducing, reusing and recycling (3Rs)
- Minimising food waste
- Caring for the world we live in
- Changing perspective and developing understanding in ourselves, our families and our children

At Tillingham Preschool we support children to learn about sustainability and to respect and care for both the living and non-living environment. Children at Tillingham Preschool have the opportunity to learn about and understand sustainability and environmental issues. They will observe adults' model sustainable practices, learn about the world around them and how to protect it. Together we will support the children to develop positive attitudes and values about sustainable practices.

#### **Energy Efficiency**

Tillingham Preschool have switched to LED bulbs in our standard lamps and use battery operated fairy lights around our setting.

We no longer use overhead strip lighting during the session.

We turn off unused devices and encourage all staff to switch off lights, computers and appliances when not in use to conserve electricity.

#### **Water Efficiency**

We teach the children to turn off the taps properly after handwashing and we use a water butt in the garden for outdoor play to reduce water consumption. At the end of each session the remaining drinking water from our water containers are emptied into the water butts.

## **Embracing Natural Light**

All areas of play and learning are arranged near our many windows (6) and blinds are opened on a daily basis to allow for natural light to fill the hall area. Light coloured walls reflect sunlight with adjustable blinds to manage glare.

## **Eco Friendly Learning Spaces**

We use natural and recycled materials for play and creative activities, inside and outside. All our furniture has been recycled and reused from Charity Shops, local scrap stores or donations from parents/carers. Plastic toys have been replaced with natural and authentic resources which have also been recycled or donated. We use cardboard packaging, cartons and containers which have become amazing learning tools, play items, loose parts and intelligent materials. We have a local florist who donates damaged or left over flowers and foliage and these materials are used in transient art, or in many forms in the creation stations, mixed with playdough, glued to a picture to be taken home or even making a potion and a perfume.

We incorporate outdoor learning and gardening to teach children about nature, growth and sustainability. We take advantage of the different seasons for free natural resources, such as crunchy leaves, pinecones, acorns and conkers. In the summer we grow tomatoes and strawberries for our snack.

Being in a rural setting we are surrounded by nature in our outdoor learning environment and the children are at one with animals that visit our setting, squirrels, pigeons, doves, butterflies, bumble bees, insects and even sometimes the local cat. They are introduced to village life sounds, tractors and combine harvesters harvesting the fields surrounding us during harvest period.

We are an accredited member of the Daily Mile and on our daily run each morning the children love to stop and litter pick on the field we run around, so that the children can play their part in keeping our lovely field clean and tidy whilst learning about caring for their community and respecting the world around them.

## **Mindful consumption and waste management**

We avoid disposable products and teach our children the value of materials by using real china, ceramic and glass cups, in play, which will break if dropped, making the consequence of waste more apparent. We encourage mindful mealtimes using real plates, bowls, cups, glasses and cutlery and encourage all children to serve themselves to develop independence and fine motor skills.

We teach our children about waste segregation and the importance of recycling through hands-on activities like sorting rubbish into labelled bins. We involve the children in eco-friendly habits like emptying unwanted and food waste into our food recycling bins and also packaging from lunchboxes is recycled into the appropriate recycling waste bins. We then involve the children in composting as it's an important part of our overall "Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose" waste reduction ethos. The practice of composting teaches children how to manage organic waste, which cuts down on general waste and can even lead to cost savings.



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**References**

**The department for Education's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainability-and-climate-change-strategy/sustainability-and-climate-change-a-strategy-for-the-education-and-childrens-services-system>

This policy was adopted by	_____	(name of provider)
On	_____	(date)
Date to be reviewed	_____	(date)
Signed on behalf of the provider	_____	
Name of signatories	_____	
Role of signatories (e.g. Chair, Supervisor)	_____	