



## **Foresteers Outdoor Preschool**

### **Sustainability and Climate Change Policy**

Reviewed January 2026

Reviewed by Hayley Smith - Preschool Manager

The [sustainability and climate change strategy for education](#) states: “By 2025, all education settings will have nominated a sustainability lead and put in place a climate action plan”

This initiative will focus on early years education and involve collaboration with children and families to ensure a comprehensive approach to addressing and supporting sustainability and climate policy nationally and globally.

By engaging children from a young age out educators aim to instill a sense of environmental responsibility and foster a culture of sustainability within educational environments and wider community.

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 sustainable practices.

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 explore nature through art and play
- Supporting children to experience the natural environment through natural materials like wood, stone, sand and recycled materials
- Supporting the environment by learning how to grow and nurture plants in the garden and discovering all about the food cycle by growing, harvesting and cooking food for our preschool 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 they see in the local area
- Developing a recycling area and encouraging children to share a recycling ethos in the home environment.
- Using books for reference or story based learning

At Foresteers 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
- Ensuring parents recycle children's take-home recycled material models, if they do not keep them
- Considering our carbon footprint when purchasing materials and ensuring the resources we use are eco friendly, recycled or carbon neutral where possible
- Shopping local where possible
- Turning off equipment and lights when not in use
- Composting food waste
- Incorporating water-wise strategies such as ensuring taps are turned off and any leaks are fixed
- Using potable water rainwater butts for watering plants and filling up the pond
- Recycling water from the water play to water plants outside
- Using food that we have grown in preschool meals to support understanding of a healthy balanced lifestyle which supports our Healthy Early Years Award.
- Encouraging biodiversity by planting native trees/shrubs and maintaining a healthy woodland and orchard space

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 will be incorporating information from Education Nature Park (<https://www.educationnaturepark.org.uk/>) to support hands-on learning in creating and supporting biodiversity within our setting.

We assess our preschool'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; instead, we encourage experiences which involve preparing and tasting different types of food through our TasteEd sessions.

**This policy was  
adopted on**  
*1st January 2026*

**Signed on behalf of the  
preschool**  
*Hayley Smith*

**Date for review**  
*December 2026*