**Environment & Sustainability Policy (Sept 2025)**

**Policy Statement:** At Little Acorns preschool, we are dedicated to creating an environmentally responsible and sustainable setting, nurturing children's understanding of their role in protecting our planet. This policy is aligned with the revised EYFS, September 2025, supporting children's holistic development through sustainability-focused practices.

**Waste Reduction and Recycling:**

* Actively reduce waste by limiting single-use products and promoting reusable alternatives.
* Clearly marked recycling bins are provided, with children guided in correctly sorting and recycling materials.

**Sustainable Practices:**

* Incorporate energy-efficient practices, including switching off unused lights, heating, and appliances.
* Promote mindful resource use among children through daily routines.

**Nature-Based Learning:**

* Regular outdoor play and exploration activities are planned to enhance children’s connection with nature.
* Activities encourage exploration, observation, and appreciation of the natural environment.

**Environmental Education:**

* Deliver age-appropriate educational activities on the environment, focusing on recycling, composting, biodiversity, and climate awareness.
* Engage children in discussions about protecting our environment and responsible citizenship.

**Nature Conservation:**

* Foster respect and care for plants, animals, and natural ecosystems.
* Provide opportunities such as gardening, birdwatching, and nature walks to encourage understanding and protection of biodiversity.

**Eco-Friendly Materials:**

* Prioritise the use of non-toxic, environmentally friendly materials in art, crafts, and educational activities.
* Encourage creative reuse and recycling of materials for various activities.

**Community Engagement:**

* Actively participate in local community sustainability initiatives.
* Involve children in eco-friendly community projects to reinforce sustainability learning.

**Sustainable Transportation:**

* Encourage families to adopt sustainable transport methods, such as walking, cycling, or carpooling, for drop-off and pick-up.

**Continuous Improvement:**

* Regularly assess and enhance our sustainability practices, seeking feedback and suggestions from staff, parents, and children.
* Encourage staff innovation in promoting further sustainable improvements.

**Alignment with EYFS 2025 Changes:**

* This policy integrates EYFS 2025 updates, emphasising environmental responsibility, sustainable practices, and children's holistic development.

Signed: Chairperson  
Date: September 2025