**Environmental sustainability policy**

Little Acorns preschool we wish to support children to learn about sustainable practises and foster respect and care for the living and non-living environment.

Children are able to develop positive attitudes and values about sustainable practises by exploring solutions to environmental issues, learning about the world around them and how to protect it and watching adults role model sustainable practises.

We promote an open-ended curriculum which explores ideas and practises for environmental sustainability and help 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.
* Helping children to learn about water conservation, energy efficiency and waste reduction through play-based activities and adult interactions.
* Going on nature walks and to the garden and learning about plants they see in the area.
* Encouraging parents and children to walk to preschool to raise the awareness of caring for the planet.

As a preschool 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 material models if they do not keep them.
* Considering our carbon footprint when purchasing materials.
* Shopping local where possible.
* Using recycle bins for plastics, card and paper items
* Turning off equipment and lights when not in use.
* Recycling paper goods.
* Not leaving any equipment on standby.
* Unplugging all equipment at the end of the day.
* Recycling printer cartridges.
* Incorporating water wise strategies such as ensuring taps are turned off.
* Donating clothing and unwanted toys to charity for reuse.
* Recycling water from the water play to water plants outside.

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 preschools 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 meal times we encourage activities which involve preparing and tasting different types of food.

For sensory play we discourage the use of food items, unless out of date.

This policy is reviewed annually and is carefully considered in the best interest of the children the preschool and the environment.