



At Little VIPs Day Care, we are committed to promoting environmental sustainability and helping children develop respect, responsibility and care for the world around them. This policy reflects the EYFS statutory guidance (2025) and the DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy, ensuring sustainability is embedded across our curriculum and daily practice.

We recognise our role in supporting children to become environmentally aware citizens and understand how their actions can positively impact the planet, both now and in the future.

### Our Intent

We provide rich opportunities for children to:

- Develop a strong connection with nature
- Understand how to care for living and non-living environments
- Learn about sustainable practices through real-life experiences
- Build positive attitudes towards protecting the planet

Our approach supports key themes from the UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly:

- Responsible Consumption and Production
- Climate Action
- Life on Land
- Good Health and Wellbeing
- Sustainable Communities

### Our Curriculum Approach

We promote a holistic, play-based and open-ended curriculum that supports sustainability by:

- Encouraging children to spend time outdoors, exploring nature through play, creativity and investigation
- Providing natural and recycled materials such as wood, stones, sand and loose parts
- Supporting children to take part in our growing patch, where they are actively involved in planting, maintaining and harvesting:
  - Flowers
  - Vegetables
  - Herbs
- Teaching children about the food cycle, including growing, preparing and tasting food
- Exploring environmental themes such as:
  - Water conservation
  - Energy use
  - Recycling and waste reduction
- Taking part in local walks to explore plants, wildlife and the changing environment
- Encouraging sustainable travel, including walking to nursery where possible

Children are supported to understand how their small actions make a difference and are encouraged to take pride in caring for their environment.

### Sustainable Practice in Our Setting

At Little VIPs, sustainability is embedded into our daily operations:

## Waste Reduction & Recycling

- We recycle plastic, paper and glass
- Food waste is **composted**
- Children are encouraged to use recycling systems within the nursery
- We promote a shared recycling ethos with families

## Reuse & Community Sharing

- We operate a donation station where families contribute loose parts and resources, reducing the need to buy new items
- We reuse materials for creative activities
- We share books with local schools to reduce unnecessary purchasing
- We encourage families to recycle or reuse children's creations

## Sustainable Resources

- We use biodegradable gloves and nappy sacks
- We prioritise sustainable and local purchasing where possible
- We consider environmental impact when buying resources

## Supporting Families

- We provide spare wellies and outdoor suits to ensure all children can access outdoor play without families needing to purchase new items
- We promote inclusion and sustainability by reducing financial and environmental pressures on families

## Energy & Water Conservation

- Lights and equipment are turned off when not in use
- Equipment is not left on standby and unplugged when appropriate
- Energy-efficient appliances and cycles are used
- Washing is air-dried where possible
- Water-saving practices are embedded:
  - Turning off taps
  - Fixing leaks promptly
  - Using rainwater butts for outdoor play
  - Reusing water for plants

## Food and Mealtimes

We promote a respectful approach to food by:

- Encouraging children not to waste food
- Avoiding the use of food as a play resource
- Supporting activities that involve preparing, cooking and tasting food

## Working in Partnership

We believe sustainability is most effective when working together. We:

- Encourage families to adopt sustainable practices at home
- Share ideas and initiatives with parents
- Promote community involvement in environmental activities

## Monitoring and Continuous Improvement

We regularly review our environmental impact and:

- Reflect on our practices
- Set achievable sustainability targets
- Involve staff and children in improvements
- Embed sustainability into ongoing planning and provision

## Policy Review

This policy is reviewed annually in line with:

- EYFS statutory requirements (2025 updates)
- DfE sustainability guidance
- Current best practice

<b>This policy was adopted on</b>	<b>Signed on behalf of the nursery</b>	<b>Date for review</b>
April 2026	Hayley Fassam – Nursery Manager	April 2027