



35 Sustainability Policy

Policy Aim At our preschool, we believe that caring for the environment is something we can all learn to do from an early age. We aim to help children develop a love and respect for the natural world and understand how our everyday choices can make a positive difference. Through our curriculum and daily routines, we encourage children to explore and learn about caring for our planet, including the importance of looking after plants, animals, people and the places we live and play.

Our Commitment We are committed to creating a sustainable and environmentally friendly early learning environment by:

- **Learning about sustainability:** Providing children with regular opportunities to learn about recycling, reducing waste, gardening, growing food, caring for nature and where things come from.
- **Leading by example:** Our staff model positive environmental habits, such as saving energy and water, recycling and making thoughtful choices about the resources we use.
- **Learning through hands-on experiences:** Children are encouraged to take part in gardening, composting, nature play and creative activities using recycled and reusable materials. These experiences help children develop practical life skills while building a connection with the natural world.
- **Working together with families:** We value the support and involvement of our families and encourage everyone to make small, positive changes that can have a big impact.

Key Practices

1. Recycling

We help children understand what recycling means and how they can play their part.

- Children are shown how to use our recycling bins and learn which materials can be recycled.
- Reusable and recycled materials are collected and used in children's play, construction, creative activities and imaginative play.
- Children are encouraged to think about how everyday items can be reused rather than thrown away.

2. Reducing Waste

We aim to reduce the amount of waste we produce wherever possible.

- We use electronic communication with families where appropriate to reduce paper use.
- Families are welcome to donate clean, safe and reusable materials that can be used for children's play and creative activities.
- We encourage children to look after resources and use materials thoughtfully.

3. Saving Energy and Water

Small actions can make a big difference.

- Lights, fans, heaters and other appliances are switched off when they are not needed.
- Children are encouraged to use water carefully and avoid unnecessary waste.
- Staff model responsible use of energy and water throughout the preschool.

4. Learning About Sustainability

Sustainability is incorporated into children's everyday learning and experiences.

Children may explore topics such as:

- Where our food comes from and how it grows
- The life cycles of plants and animals
- Saving and protecting water
- Recycling and reducing waste
- Caring for wildlife and the natural environment
- Seasonal changes and nature



office@summertimenursery.co.uk

Registered Charity No: 1159532
Summertime Nursery & Preschool
Thomas Hardy School
Dorchester DT1 2ET

35 Sustainability Policy

Children have opportunities to grow and care for seasonal vegetables, explore the outdoors and take part in nature-based activities. Stories, conversations, songs and practical experiences are also used to introduce environmental ideas in ways that are meaningful and enjoyable for young children.

5. Making Sustainable Choices

When purchasing resources and supplies, we consider their environmental impact wherever possible.

- We consider second-hand, reusable and bulk-buy options.
- We choose environmentally friendly products where practical, such as recycled paper and eco-friendly craft materials.
- We aim to purchase resources that are durable, reusable and suitable for children's learning and play.

Working Together

We believe that sustainability is most effective when we work together. By involving children, staff and families in simple everyday actions, we can help children develop positive habits and understand that everyone has a role to play in caring for our planet.

Catherine White
Nursery Manager
September 2026