



## Sustainability Policy

At Forest Grove, sustainability is woven into every aspect of our practice. As a fully outdoor nursery, we are deeply connected to the changing seasons, the rhythms of nature, and the responsibility to care for the environment we share. We believe that early experiences in nature nurture a lifelong respect for the planet, and that small, consistent actions can have a lasting impact.

Our sustainability approach is structured into four focus areas—Decarbonisation, Climate Adaptation & Resilience, Enhancing Biodiversity, and Climate Education & Green Skills—which are in line with the Department for Education’s guidance for developing climate-conscious practice in early years settings. These areas guide how we make decisions, design our curriculum, and involve our community in caring for the natural world. They ensure our work is balanced between reducing our environmental footprint, adapting to change, enriching our surroundings, and preparing children with the knowledge and skills they need for a sustainable future.

### Decarbonisation

We aim to reduce our environmental impact through:

- Prioritising natural and upcycled materials for play and learning, sourcing from ‘The Children’s SCRAP Project’ as our main resource for providing materials
- Supporting families to follow our “no plastic toys from home” policy and having children create posters to explain this approach
- Encouraging walking, cycling, and scooting to the nursery, and celebrating families’ efforts in newsletters
- Avoiding single-use items by using reusable snack containers and durable learning resources such as natural materials like stones, shells, pinecones, sticks, and logs for loose parts play; fabric or cloth items for imaginative play; metal or hard-wearing tools for gardening and nature exploration
- Children modelling and practicing reusing materials in their daily routines

- Recycling food waste from snacks and meals, with children involved in sorting and understanding the process
- Reviewing sourcing of goods and services to select low-impact, local options

### **Climate Adaptation & Resilience**

We strengthen children's awareness and adapt our practice through:

- Documenting seasonal changes via drawings, photographs, and books to understand natural cycles
- Creating temporary sheltered areas outdoors for safe play in all weathers
- Incorporating seasonal risk assessments into daily routines, e.g., checking for slippery surfaces, strong winds, or heat exposure
- Adjusting outdoor routines and resources according to weather conditions to ensure safe and engaging learning

### **Enhancing Biodiversity & the Natural Environment**

We nurture the natural world and develop children's sense of responsibility through:

- Leading regular nature walks and wildlife observation sessions to foster curiosity and respect for the environment
- Running litter-picking activities learning to sort materials correctly, understand the impact of pollution on wildlife, and see the tangible difference their actions make
- Installing nest boxes on site to provide safe nesting sites for local birds, supporting biodiversity while giving children opportunities to observe wildlife and learn about the needs of different species.
- Embedding nature appreciation into storytelling, art, songs and mindfulness activities

### **Climate Education & Green Skills**

We embed sustainability in our curriculum and daily routines through:

- Eco-themed activities, displays, storytelling, and reflective discussions to encourage children to share their understanding of sustainability
- Termly clothes swaps to promote sharing, reduce textile waste, and encourage resource awareness
- Encouraging healthy, sustainable eating through provision of fruit and vegetables, avoiding heavily packaged or processed foods, and involving children in tasting seasonal produce
- Teaching children to sort and recycle food waste, understanding the importance of reducing landfill and supporting composting where appropriate

- Partnering with local environmental organisations to bring real-world examples of sustainable living into children’s experiences.

We recognise that caring for the environment is a shared responsibility. Staff lead by example, children contribute ideas and actions, and families are valued partners in our efforts. Together, we aim to cultivate a culture where sustainability is a way of life, embedded in our learning, daily routines, and community values.

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it reflects our evolving practice, incorporates new learning, and continues to inspire positive action for the future.

<b><i>This policy was adopted on</i></b>	<b><i>Signed on behalf of the nursery</i></b>	<b><i>Date for review</i></b>
<i>September 2025</i>	<i>Elizabeth Hassay</i>	<i>September 2026</i>