



Sustainability and Climate Plan

2025-26

At Bushy Leaze we recognise the important role we play in shaping positive climate behaviour. Establishing sustainable practices and showing children the value of resources from an early age helps to establish positive habits that become skills for life. We are committed to making small changes that can have a lasting impact. We are working towards involving all of our staff, children, families and wider community, as we know that together we can make a difference.

The Department for Education launched their sustainability and climate change strategy in 2022, which has four strategic aims for schools. These are to prepare children for a world impacted by climate change through learning and practical experience; reducing direct and indirect emissions from education buildings; adapting buildings and practices to prepare for the effects of climate change; and creating a better environment for future generations.

When developing our sustainability and climate plan:

- We reflected on our curriculum to ensure the children have opportunities to explore sustainability in an age-appropriate way
- We considered our energy and water usage, and how we can reduce this
- We looked at our procurement processes, and how we can reduce the impact these have on the environment
- We reviewed our learning environment to see if we can make changes that will create a more climate-friendly space
- We thought about how we can involve our families to help us shape and embed a sustainable future

We have identified ways we can reduce carbon emissions, improve habitat and biodiversity, build knowledge within our nursery community and improve our nursery's resilience to weather impacts.

- Decarbonisation
- Biodiversity
- Climate education
- Resilience and adaptation

Our Sustainability Leads are Tammy Parrott (Business Manager), Rosie Edwards (Senior Practitioner)

Energy

What are we already doing?

- Maximise the use of natural light and ventilation during the day. Use 'butchers' curtains' to minimise heat loss in cold weather
- All areas of the nursery have individual temperature gauges
- Ensure that all lights and appliances are turned off at the end of each day
- Make sure children are appropriately dressed requiring less use of heating and cooling appliances
- Use a cool cycle on the washing machine and wait for a full load
- LED lighting has been installed across the centre
- When purchasing new equipment, we consider those with high energy star rating
- Sensor lights are installed in some less used areas of the nursery
- Energy costs are closely monitored by the Business Manager

Actions

- **As part of our curriculum, we have begun talking to the children about switching off lights when we leave a space, closing / opening doors and windows to keep the centre warm / cool**
- **Place signs near all light switches and power points to act as reminders to turn off when not needed**
- **Share with our families the actions we are taking to reduce energy use and include energy saving tips in our newsletter**

Litter and Waste

What are we already doing?

- Use reusable shopping bags when we shop for resources and snack
- Have separate recycling and rubbish bins in the nursery and for waste collections
- Provide recycled 'junk' modelling opportunities for the children
- Think carefully about what we need to print
- Have second hand uniform / clothes available for parents, including projects, such as, Christmas jumper drive
- **Regular litter picks around the centre, home learning lending library litter picker packs**
- Work with the local community cupboard to redistribute unwanted food to families
- Have reusable cups, plates etc. for snack time
- Have milk from a local dairy in returnable glass bottles
- Centrally purchase snack to minimise waste. Any left-over fruit and milk is offered to families
- Actively look for ways to recycle/reuse equipment e.g., donate to other settings, parents, Facebook

Actions

- **We will ask staff to be aware of packaging waste and encourage them to buy products with little or no packaging**
- **We will work with our families to reduce food packaging – encouraging package free lunchboxes**
- **Continue to look at ways we can reduce the use of wipes, by using reusable cloths to wipe children's faces and hands**

Water

What are we already doing?

- Use the eco cycle on the washing machine and dishwashers and wait for a full load
- Use a sink of water to wash up items such as art supplies rather than using running water from the tap
- Take regular water meter readings
- Have low flow taps, including push tap, to minimise water wastage
- Only filling the water tray at the beginning of the session and encouraging the children to take care with water

Actions

- **As part of our curriculum, we will talk to the children about minimising water waste e.g., turning off taps, not having the hose on all of the time, thinking about how we use the water in our water tray**
- **Share with our families the actions we are taking to reduce water use and include water saving tips in our newsletter**

Transport / Air Quality

What are we already doing?

- Children have access to a variety of alternative modes of transport e.g., balance bikes, trikes
- Encourage families to walk to nursery and are involved in initiatives such as 'Walktober'
- Purchase as many resources as possible from County Supplies to minimise deliveries
- Have milk delivered from local dairy
- Snack is purchased weekly to minimise trips to the shop
- A range of trees, flowers and shrubs are planted around the centre

Actions

- **As part of the curriculum, invite different members of the community into the setting e.g., fire fighters, milkman, allowing the children to experience a variety of transport**
- Contact the council, when necessary, to ensure the alleyway is maintained

School Environment

What are we already doing?

- Natural materials are available in both the indoor and outdoor learning environments
- Mud kitchen and sandpit available in all outdoor learning environments
- Ensure effective drainage in all outdoor spaces
- Ensure adequate shade in the gardens to reduce heat risk

Actions

- **Develop our outdoor environment to include a wildlife garden to increase biodiversity**
- **Develop our outdoor environment to include an allotment where children can grow their own food to eat**
- **Develop our 'bug' hotel, habitats for insects, and a wormery**