

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY 2025-26

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1. Environmental Sustainability Policy

EYA Policy Template Reference: 11

The Department for Education (DfE) strategy states that: *'By 2025, all education settings will have nominated a sustainability lead and put in place a climate action plan'*. The 4 key pillars that represent aspects of addressing climate change to foster a sustainable future are:

- Decarbonisation
- Biodiversity
- Climate education and green careers goals
- Resilience and adaptation

For Longparish Little School these pillars inform our activities in terms of:

Decarbonisation:	Our activities to reduce plastic use
	Our activities to reduce utility usage
	Encouraging sustainable transport to and from the provision
Biodiversity:	Fostering children's empathy with nature through exploration
	Engaging with flora and fauna in the setting and outings to local community spaces
Climate education:	Sharing books, stories and songs with the children on nature and the environment
	Incorporating environment and climate topics into the EYFS areas of learning
	Encouraging parents to engage with sustainability topics at home
Resilience and adaption:	Reviewing all aspects of our setting's environment to assess what sustainability and climate adaptations can be made
	Actively considering the risk of extreme weather events on our children, families and provision

Aim

At Longparish Little School, we are committed to fostering a culture of environmental responsibility and sustainability. We recognise our role in promoting practices that reduce our ecological footprint, preserve natural resources, and educate young children on the importance of caring for the environment.

This policy aims to:

- Promote environmentally responsible practices within our preschool setting.
- Encourage sustainable behaviours among staff, children, and families.
- Integrate environmental education into the curriculum.
- Reduce waste, conserve energy, and responsibly use resources.

Scope

This policy applies to all staff, children, volunteers, contractors, and families who engage with Longparish Little School.

Roles and Responsibilities

- **Management:** Ensure this policy is implemented, reviewed, and promoted. Provide necessary resources and training.
- **Educators and Staff:** Model sustainable behaviour, involve children in environmental learning, and follow sustainable practices daily.
- **Families:** Support sustainability efforts and participate in initiatives where possible.
- **Children:** Be encouraged and supported to understand and participate in caring for the environment.

Objectives

Key Areas of Focus

Cutting down on waste by reducing, reusing and recycling

- We use recycling bins - following the local recycling scheme guidance.
- We take steps to reduce the junk mail sent to the setting.
- We minimise the amount of paper printing.
- We recycle printer and toner cartridges.

- We recycle any electronic equipment – where possible using an environmentally friendly disposal scheme.
- We encourage families to recycle uniform to new families or return to Little School so we can pass it on or recycle in the textiles bin.
- We encourage families to donate pre-loved clothes, books and toys to charity shops, refugee support groups or to the setting.
- When purchasing new resources, we look for natural rather than plastic.
- We use natural resources such as water with care – ensure taps are turned off and any leaks fixed.
- We recycle water from water play by using it to water plants.
- Where possible, we use energy saving light bulbs and turn off lights when we leave the building.

Waste Reduction and Recycling

- Implement and maintain recycling stations for paper, plastics, and other materials.
- Reduce single-use plastics and encourage reusable items (e.g. water bottles, lunch containers).
- Compost organic waste where possible.
- Promote waste-free lunches.

Minimising food waste

- We collect food for the local food bank as part of our harvest activities.
- We plan snacks carefully to reduce food waste for example using foods that are in season and being aware of portion sizes.
- We have a food waste bin to reduce food waste going to landfill.
- We feed fruit and vegetable scraps to the worms in a wormery, and use the compost made in the wormery for our plants and vegetables
- We teach children about food production, and grow vegetables that are used for snack and in cooking

Energy Conservation

- We use natural light and ventilation when possible.
- We turn off lights, heating/cooling, and appliances when not in use.
- We use energy-efficient lighting and appliances.

Water Conservation

- We install water-saving taps and fixtures where possible.
- We educate children on the importance of turning off taps when not in use.
- We use water-efficient gardening practices (e.g. mulching, watering early or late in the day).
- We teach children to dispose of left-over water from water play by watering plants in the garden.

Sustainable Purchasing & Procurement

- We purchase eco-friendly and non-toxic cleaning products when feasible.
- We choose sustainable, recyclable, or reusable materials for activities and learning.
- We support local suppliers and fair-trade products when feasible.
- We use second-hand items where appropriate.

Reducing the use of plastics

- We reduce the use of plastic bottles and bags as much as possible by finding alternatives and encouraging families / staff to use reusable lunch and drinks containers in lunch boxes.
- We research suppliers to find and use those that offer more environmentally sustainable products.
- Our milk is supplied in glass bottles which are returned to the provider.
- We use alternatives to baby wipes that contain plastic.
- We source alternatives to craft materials – recycle materials, encourage parents to bring in recycling materials for art and creative activities, and we are members of a Scrapstore.
- We look for resources that are not just plastic representations when real alternatives are available.
- We support children to experience the natural environment through natural materials.

Gardening and Outdoor Learning

- We maintain a garden using organic and sustainable practices.
- We involve children in planting, watering, harvesting, and composting through our Gardening Club.
- We encourage respect and curiosity about nature through outdoor play and exploration.

Caring for the world we live in

- We help children to explore nature through art and play.
- We educate children not to drop litter – we conduct litter picks as part of our Forest School activities.
- We care for the setting environment indoors and out.
- We discover the importance of wildlife to the environment and eco system.
- We use natural resources.
- We shop locally where possible.
- We go on nature walks and learn about plants we see in our local area.

Transportation

- We encourage families to walk, cycle, scoot to our setting.
- We promote safe and sustainable travel options for staff and families.

Education and Engagement

- Longparish Little School is committed to maintaining its Eco School status (a Keep Britain Tidy programme for educational settings)
- We integrate environmental themes into the curriculum (e.g. recycling, nature, seasons, animals, conservation).
- Staff model sustainable behaviour for children through daily routines.
- We involve children in sustainability practices (e.g. sorting waste, caring for plants).
- We share sustainability tips and updates with families through newsletters, meetings, and displays.

Monitoring and Review

This policy together with Longparish Little School's Climate Action Plan will be reviewed annually or as needed to ensure its effectiveness. Feedback from staff and families will be considered to improve our environmental practices.

2. Eco School

At Longparish Little School we support children to learn about sustainability - to respect and care for both the living and non-living environment.

Children have the opportunity at Longparish Little School to learn about and understand sustainability and environmental issues, and consideration is given to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals when planning our teaching and learning. Children will observe adults

modelling sustainable practices, learn about the world around them and how to protect it. Together we will support the children to develop positive attitudes and values about sustainable practices.

Our curriculum encourages children to explore ideas and practices that promote environmental sustainability and to understand the interdependence between people and the environment.

To reinforce this ethos, Longparish Little School remains committed to maintaining our Eco School status (a Keep Britain Tidy programme for educational settings).

The Eco School programme is a global, pupil-led environmental education framework that empowers learners to lead sustainability efforts in their schools and communities. It uses a seven-step plan to guide educational settings through a process of environmental awareness and action, focusing on topics like waste, energy, and biodiversity. Settings can earn internationally recognised awards, with the highest being the Green Flag.

References

The Department for Education's Sustainability and climate change strategy:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainability-and-climate-change-strategy/sustainability-and-climate-change-a-strategy-for-the-education-and-childrens-services-systems>

Eco School Programme: www.eco-schools.org.uk/early-years

UN Sustainable Development Goals: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

Further guidance

'Supporting effective environmental sustainability in early years settings' toolkit