

Once Upon A Time Nursery
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Environmental Sustainability Policy

At **Once Upon a Time Nursery** we wish to support children to learn about sustainable practices and foster respect and care for the living and non-living environment.

Children are able to develop positive attitudes and values about sustainable practices by exploring solutions to environmental issues, learning about the world around them and how to protect it and watching adults role model sustainable practices.

We promote a holistic, open ended curriculum which explores ideas and practices for environmental sustainability and helps children understand the interdependence between people and the environment by:

- helping children to explore nature through art and play
- supporting children to experience the natural environment through natural materials like wood, stone, sand and recycled materials
- support the environment by learning how to grow and nurture plants in the nursery garden and discovering all about the food cycle by growing, harvesting, and cooking food for our nursery menu
- help children to learn about water conservation, energy efficiency and waste reduction through play based activities and adult interactions
- going on nature walks and learning about plants they see in the local area
- encouraging parents and children to walk to nursery once a week / month to raise the awareness of caring for the planet
- developing a recycling area and encouraging children to share recycling ethos into the home environment

As a nursery we will embed sustainability into all aspects of the operations including:

- recycling materials for art and creative activities, construction and encouraging parents to bring in their recycling materials for the same use
- considering our carbon footprint when purchasing materials
- shopping local where possible
- turning off equipment and lights when not in use
- using energy saving light bulbs
- using energy saving wash cycles on the washing machine.
- incorporating water-wise strategies such as ensuring taps are turned off and leaks fixed
- recycling water from the water play to water plants outside
- using food that we have grown in nursery meals.
- When possible, walking children to and from school, to reduce our carbon footprint

Working together with all our parents and partners will help our environment to be more sustainable and make it a better place for our future generations to grow up in.

We assess our nursery's impact on the environment on a regular basis and put procedures in place to counteract this impact.

This policy is reviewed annually and is carefully considered in the best interests of the children, nursery and the environment.