

# St Marychurch Pre-school

## Sustainability Policy

### Aim

St Marychurch Pre School - embeds practices that teach children about the environment while also reducing the setting's environmental impact. By creating a climate action plan, with a focus on hands-on experiences like gardening, reducing waste, using sustainable materials, and incorporating lessons about food choices and local ecosystems. St Marychurch Pre School is embedding sustainability into the curriculum.

### Method

St. Marychurch Pre School recycles materials for art and creative activities. We Shop locally where possible to reduce carbon footprint, turn off lights and equipment when not in use and unplug them at the end of the day. We dry laundry outdoors or on clothes horses where possible. The setting Composts food waste and recycles water from play for gardening. We use rainwater butts for outdoor play and plant watering. The setting incorporates food grown in the setting to use at snack time and in messy play.

### Curriculum Commitments

We encourage exploration of nature through art, play, and outdoor learning.  
Use natural and recycled materials in daily activities.  
Teach children about the food cycle by growing, harvesting, and cooking produce.  
Promote water conservation, energy efficiency, and waste reduction through play-based learning.  
Organise nature walks to connect children with local ecosystems.  
Encourage sustainable travel by promoting walking to nursery.  
Developed a recycling area to encourage children to share in recycling practices at home.  
Sharing books, stories and songs with the children on nature and the environment  
Weaving environment and climate topics into the EYFS areas of learning  
Encouraging parents to engage with sustainability topics at home

### Legislative and Ofsted Compliance

EYFS 2025 statutory framework: Requires providers to promote children's understanding of the world, safeguarding, welfare, and healthy practices.

Ofsted EIF 2025: Inspectors will evaluate how sustainability is embedded across the curriculum and operations, including children's experiences of nature, recycling, and climate awareness.

DfE Sustainability Strategy: all settings must have a sustainability lead and have a climate action plan. **Emma Hayes** is the sustainability lead for St Marychurch Pre School

Environmental legislation: Compliance with UK waste reduction, recycling, and energy efficiency standards, including carbon footprint considerations in procurement.

Sustainability policy continued.....

### **Staff Guidance: How You Support Policy Delivery**

Role model sustainable practices: Children learn by watching adults conserve energy, recycle, and care for nature. Integrate sustainability into play: Use recycled materials, natural resources, and eco-friendly activities. Encourage child participation: Involve children in gardening, recycling, and water-saving routines. Promote awareness: Talk to children about why we recycle, save energy, and care for the environment. Collaborate with parents: Share sustainability messages and encourage families to adopt eco-friendly practices at home. Monitor and report: Staff should highlight areas where improvements can be made and contribute to the annual review.

### **What Staff Can Do Every Day**

- Model sustainable behaviour: switch off lights, unplug equipment, recycle materials, and conserve water.
- Use natural and recycled resources: wood, stone, sand, cardboard, and parent-donated recyclables.
- Involve children in gardening: planting, watering, harvesting, and cooking food for nursery meals.
- Teach through play: water-saving games, recycling activities, and energy-awareness role play.
- Encourage eco-friendly travel: remind families about walking to nursery.
- Reduce waste: compost food scraps, recycle water from play, and avoid food as play material.
- Talk to children: explain why we recycle, save energy, and care for nature — link actions to protecting the planet.
- Engage parents: share sustainability tips and encourage recycling at home.
- Report issues: highlight leaks, energy waste, or missed recycling opportunities to the sustainability lead (**Emma Hayes**).

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Position Chairperson Dated \_\_\_\_\_

This Policy is reviewed annually or earlier if legislation, Ofsted requirements, or best practice guidance changes. Impact assessments are conducted regularly to evaluate the setting's environmental footprint. The Committees oversight ensures accountability and continuous improvement.

We aim to provide a safe, stimulating, caring, happy Pre-school where all children and their families are welcome. We provide a curriculum based on the Early Years Foundation Stage using individual children's interest and needs.