Sustainability Policy

Approved by:	LCEF governing body	**Date: January 2026**
Last reviewed on:	January 2025	
Next review due by:	September 2026	

Introduction

Tachbrook Nursery School is committed to fostering a culture of sustainability and environmental stewardship, preparing our children to thrive in and contribute to a sustainable future. This policy aligns with the Department for Education's (DfE) Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy and builds upon our Sustainability Action Plan. By integrating sustainable practices into all aspects of our operations and curriculum, we aim to nurture global citisenship and environmental responsibility among staff, children, and the wider community.

Policy Aims Our sustainability policy seeks to:

1. Reduce the nursery's environmental impact by adopting sustainable practices in daily operations.
2. Provide high-quality education on sustainability and climate change, aligned with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
3. Empower staff and children to become agents of change through hands-on, engaging activities that promote environmental awareness and action.
4. Strengthen connections with nature and encourage appreciation of the natural environment.
5. Involve parents, caregivers, and the wider community in supporting sustainability initiatives.

Policy Principles

1. **Building Staff Awareness and Carbon Literacy**
    - Staff will receive regular training and resources on sustainability and carbon literacy to incorporate these principles into teaching and operational practices.
    - A sustainability working group will oversee the implementation of green initiatives and share best practices across the nursery.
    - The nursery will conduct regular energy audits to reduce energy consumption and set measurable carbon reduction targets.
2. **Aligning the Curriculum with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**
    - Curriculum planning will integrate the SDGs into learning activities, emphasising themes such as responsible consumption, climate action, and biodiversity.
    - Children will engage in projects such as recycling programs, vegetable gardening, and creative reuse of materials.
    - Visual displays and child-friendly resources on the SDGs will enhance awareness and understanding.
3. **Connecting with Nature**
    - Outdoor learning spaces, including sensory gardens and wildlife-friendly areas, will be developed and maintained to foster connections with nature.
    - Children will participate in regular visits to local parks, forests, and urban green spaces.
    - Natural materials will be incorporated into creative and play-based learning to promote environmental appreciation.

4. **Using Storytelling to Engage Learners**
    - Sustainability-themed stories will be incorporated into daily learning, featuring topics such as conservation, climate change, and caring for the planet.
    - Storytelling activities will be used to inspire discussions, art projects, and problem-solving activities related to sustainability.
    - Guest storytellers and environmental advocates will be invited to engage children and staff.
5. **Sustainable Operations**
    - The nursery will adopt waste reduction strategies, including increased recycling and reduced single-use plastics.
    - Water and energy efficiency measures will be prioritised across all facilities.
    - Procurement policies will favor sustainable and ethical products, including local and seasonal food for meals and snacks.
6. **Community Engagement**
    - Parents and caregivers will be encouraged to participate in sustainability initiatives, such as tree planting, clothing swaps, and energy-saving workshops.
    - Partnerships with local environmental organisations will support hands-on learning opportunities and community projects.

Monitoring and Evaluation To ensure the effectiveness of this policy:

- Progress will be reviewed termly by the sustainability working group.
- Feedback will be collected from staff, parents, and children to refine practices.
- Data on energy use, waste reduction, and other key metrics will be monitored and shared in an annual sustainability report.