8.1a Sustainability

Policy Statement

At Privett Montessori Nursery school, we will 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 adult 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 School garden and discovering all about the food cycle by growing, harvesting, and cooking food
- 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 School we will embed sustainability into all aspects of the operations including:

- recycling materials for art and creative activities and encouraging parents to bring in their recycling materials for the same use
- when children take home models from recycled materials ensuring parents recycle these materials if they do not keep them
- 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
- not leaving any equipment on standby
- unplugging all equipment at the end of its use/the day
- using energy saving wash cycles on the washing machine.
- composting food waste
- incorporating water-wise strategies such as ensuring taps are turned off and leaks fixed
- purchasing materials made out of durable materials (i.e wood) instead of plastic, when possible
- recycling water from the water play to water plants outside

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 School impact on the environment on a regular basis and put procedures in place to counteract this impact.

In order to encourage children not to waste food or to play with food at mealtimes, we discourage the use of food as a play material; instead we encourage activities which involve preparing and tasting different types of food.

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

Change log		
This policy was changed on	**Signed on behalf of the nursery**	**Reason for change**
7/08/2020	Veronica van Ingen	Adoption of policy
26/10/2021	Veronica van Ingen	Commitment from the owner to make long term investment by purchasing materials made out of durable materials (i.e wood) instead of plastic, when possible
26/01/2026	Veronica van Ingen	No changes