**Sustainability and Climate Change Policy**

Sustainability is an essential and integral part of our daily routines at St Andrew’s Pre-school. We wish to instill an understanding and awareness of the importance of sustainable practices, reducing our carbon footprint and impact on the planet. Our commitment to sustainability aligns with the government’s goals to become a net zero nation. By using this resource,

*‘Through their learned and lived experiences from early years to further and higher education; we will provide opportunities to develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the importance of nature, sustainability and the causes and impact of climate change and to translate this knowledge into positive action and solutions.’*

- DfE Sustainability and climate change: a strategy for the education and children’s services systems, 2023

**Our sustainability lead is** *Katharine Yarwood*

**Our Values and Ethos**

Our goal is to ensure that our setting and its practices, both inside and out, support sustainability, in line with government expectations regarding sustainability and climate change. We do our best to reflect these values and our ethos regarding sustainability in everything we do. This includes our consumption of food, energy, and water, as well as how we travel and waste reduction/disposal.

**Our curriculum**

Providing our children with a curriculum that teaches them the importance of sustainability and how to live a more sustainable lifestyle is integral to the ethos and values of our setting. Within our curriculum, we will give our children the following opportunities to extend their understanding and appreciation of sustainability:

* Helping children to explore nature through play and our loose topics.
* Supporting children to experience the natural environment through natural materials like wood, stone, sand, soil, water and recycled materials
* Supporting the environment by learning how to grow and nurture plants in the pre-school garden and discovering all about the food cycle by growing, harvesting and cooking food.
* Helping children to learn about water conservation, energy efficiency and waste reduction through play-based activities and adult interaction
* Encouraging parents and children to regularly walk to pre-school to raise the awareness of caring for the planet.
* Developing a recycling bay to recycle things from their lunches and waste paper.
* Empower children to take ownership of their environment and make positive changes in their daily lives.
* Participate in awareness days such as Earth Hour Day and Global Recycling Day

As a pre-school we will embed sustainability into all aspects of the operations including:

* **Waste Reduction and Recycling:**

Using recycled materials for art and craft activities

Reduce and compost food waste

Reduce paper consumption by using A5 paper for free mark making or white boards

Use Tapestry or email for parent communications

Encouraging parents to use reusable containers for pack lunches

Encourage parents to include less pre-packaged food in packed lunches.

* **Energy Conservation:**

Turn off equipment and lights when not in use.

* **Water Conservation:**

Encourage the children to bring reusable water bottles

Teach the children to turn off the taps

Recycling water from the water play to water plants outside

* **Sustainable Travel:**

Encourage families to walk, cycle or use public transport when travelling to and from Pre-school

When parents drive to Pre-school they turn engines off while waiting in the carpark

Shopping locally where possible

* **Biodiversity**

Working with St Andrew’s Church we will create green spaces within our play spaces, such as planters and bug environments, and encourage our children to engage with nature.

Working together with St Andrew’s Church and our parents will help our environment to be more sustainable and make it a better place for our future generations to grow up in.

We hope that staff, children and their families will also join us in our commitment to protect our planet.