

Sustainability and Use of Plastics

At **Little Pearls Nursery** we know we have a duty of care to educate the next generation about environmentally friendly issues. Therefore we are considerate to issues affecting our world and strive to be positive role models for the children in our care.

We are committed to directly and indirectly educate the children about environmentally friendly habits such as recycling, reduced plastics and waste. We will look for opportunities to demonstrate environmentally friendly procedures to the children and emphasise the importance of looking after our world.

Policy intention:

- To demonstrate environmentally friendly habits to the next generation
- To educate the children in our care about the importance of such habits to protect the world in which we live
- Change perspectives around the uses of plastics and waste
- Challenge and review current systems and processes that does not reflect a positive and sustainable ethos

Our intention for this policy is use sustainable principles and reduce the amount of plastic used without compromising levels of hygiene and safety.

Our Procedures:

- Take every opportunity to educate children around issues of sustainability, recycling and waste
- Demonstrate positive role modelling around sustainability, recycling and waste
- Using recycling bins on each floor including the nursery office
- Using a food waste bin to reduce the amount of 'general waste' 'within the setting
- Try to use recycled materials where possible for some activities e.g. junk modelling, creating a bird feeder
- Try to only buy products from sustainable sources or recycled products
- Purchasing fruit and vegetables from a small family run businesses which is locally sourced, which does not use plastic packaging
- Reduce the use of plastics in our setting. We will do this by:
 - Following the Curiosity Approach which encourages the use of recycled materials and natural resources
 - Only using recycled plastics rather than buying more plastic resources
 - Limiting our use of gloves, aprons and nappy sacks
 - Discouraging packaged snacks and encouraging fresh fruit
 - Reuse plastic resources, up cycle items to continue using them

This is an ongoing ethos in our setting and not something that can change immediately. Although we will start making changes now we plan for improvements to continue being made for the next few years.

Policy date: December 2022

Review date: December 2023