

# Environmental sustainability policy

## Policy statement

At **Thorney Island Nursery** we wish to support children to learn about sustainable practices and foster respect and care for the living and non-living environment.

Children can 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 adults role model sustainable practices.



## Procedures

We promote a curriculum that encourages independence, social skills and working together. The children are given an opportunity to express their thoughts, which allows them to explore ideas and practices for environmental sustainability and helps them understand the importance between people and the environment.

Examples of ways that we will embed sustainability into daily life and our curriculum include:

- Helping children to explore nature and natural objects through aspects of their play
- Supporting children to experience the natural environment through natural materials like wood, stone, sand and recycled materials
- Providing recycling bins in various areas, as well as using recycled materials for arts and crafts and promoting a recycling ethos in the home environment, as well as encouraging parents to bring in their recyclable materials for use within the nursery.
- Supporting the environment by learning how to grow and nurture plants in the nursery garden and discovering all about the food cycle by growing, harvesting and cooking food for our nursery menu
- Plan snacks and meals carefully to reduce food waste for example using foods that are in season and being aware of portion sizes
- Recycling water from the water play to water plants outside
- Using outdoor water butts to collect rainwater and water the plants/vegetables
- Going on nature walks and learning about plants they see on the island
- Discover the importance of wildlife to the environment and eco system.
- Encouraging parents and children to regularly walk to nursery to raise the awareness of caring for the planet

As a nursery we will embed sustainability into all aspects of the operations including:

- Considering our carbon footprint when purchasing materials
- Shopping locally where possible

- Turning off equipment and lights when not in use
- 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
- Hanging washing out to dry and/or using clothes airers rather than the heated airer
- Using the food waste bins and/or composting food waste
- Incorporating water-wise strategies such as ensuring taps are turned off and leaks fixed
- Recycling water from the water play to water plants outside
- Using food that we have grown in nursery meals.
- Encourage families to donate pre-loved clothes, books and toys to the nursery or charity shops.
- Educate children not to drop litter

**The nursery will ensure that:**

All staff and children play their part in ensuring that Thorney Island nursery promotes environmental sustainability as much as possible, ensuring that the children gain an understanding of their role within this and that the parents are involved where possible. 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.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of: Thorney Island Nursery

Held on: 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Date to be reviewed: May 2027

Signed on behalf of the committee: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of signatory: \_\_\_\_\_

Role of signatory: \_\_\_\_\_

Manager's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Manager's name: Karen Theobald