



Name:	Date written:
Sustainability Policy	21/2/22
Written by:	Date of Review:
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Policy Statement	
<p>This policy is in place to ensure we always adhere to our sustainable ethos, whenever possible. Our beliefs and values are guided by the Three Pillars of Sustainability: economic, social and environmental.</p>	
Aims and Purpose	
<p>Sustainability is at the very core of Young Friends Kindergarten. It is woven into everything we do. Our aim is to grow a generation of sustainable citizens and to also encourage adults to rethink their daily practices and reduce their carbon footprints. Following our principles of sustainability means we are always working together to enable Young Friends to forge a path toward larger environmental, social, and economic responsibility goals. Below are the procedures and expected standards we have in place to ensure staff, children and their families are as sustainable as possible when engaging with Young Friends Kindergarten, and hopefully beyond.</p>	
Applicability	
<p>Children Staff Families</p>	
Definition of Terms	
<p>Sustainability - At Young Friends, our focus on sustainability means working in partnership with each other, our families, other settings, and the wider community to develop plans that combine long-term successful economic viability with maximum social responsibility and environmental care.</p> <p>Loose parts – Everyday objects and objects from nature which do not have a fixed purpose in the play context, they are open-ended, they are things that children are free to move around, combine and take apart.</p>	
Overview	
The Curriculum	

Our Daily Practices:

- Social
 - Trips
 - Community
 - Important Days and Festivals
- Environmental
 - Eco Warriors
 - Beach Clean-Ups
 - Nursery Environment
 - Re-usable Nappies
- Economical
 - Kitchen Garden
 - Looking After Equipment and Resources
 - Recycling and Composting
- Eco Warrior Values

Procedures

The Curriculum

- **Young Friends Kindergarten has sustainability at its heart. We encourage our children to be respectful and care for their environment as a whole and more specifically, flora and fauna. We establish a social consciousness, with the children seeing themselves as a member of a community (whether it be their nursery pod, their family, their hometown, their country, or their global community). Caring for others and at the same time developing their own voices and nurturing their own well-being. Finally, we instil an economic awareness. There is an expectation to look after resources at nursery and their environment around them and think about how we can reuse and recycle. We think about the cost to our pocket, the community, and the planet.**
- **It makes sense for us to look at our curriculum through the framework of the growing year, month by month. Each month our planning is not only informed by the children's interests, schemas and needs but also by what is happening in our kitchen garden, the parks, the beach, and our workshop.**
- **We post our monthly plans on Famly in a newsletter so parents can see what their children are going to be doing and join in where possible.**

Our Daily Practices:

Social

- Trips (see Outdoor Trip Policy)
 - Young Friends Kindergarten recognizes the benefits from trips outside of the nursery. They can build upon a child's confidence and build an awareness of the diverse life around them while fulfilling a child's ongoing need to discover and explore what the outdoor world has to offer. They also place us within the community, developing a sense of self and belonging.
 - Young Friends offers Beach kindergarten, Forest/Park kindergarten, trips to shops and places in the local environment and the kitchen garden. These trips

can vary between walking short distances or travelling on public transport to the desired area.

- Children develop their social skills and a feeling of being in a community.
- Community
 - **We regularly connect with organisations and charities to raise money and awareness for local communities.**
 - **We take the children to local businesses (e.g local material shop, newsagents, post office) to make links with our community and to help grow a social spirit.**
- Important Days and Festivals
 - **We model and encourage inclusion and a respect for the beliefs of others. We acknowledge festivals which are important to our families and the local community, but in a non-consumerist way. We celebrate the messages behind these festivals, for example instead of Christmas we talk about how we can help people who are not as fortunate as we are. We celebrate the seasons and special days happening in the nature calendar.**

Environmental

- Eco Warriors
 - Our children are where looking after the planet starts. We place lots of emphasis on recycling, sorting and the actual process to give them knowledge and understanding but also with elements of achievement, teamwork, and fun. The children love to feel they are doing something good and useful and learn empathy and to enjoy looking after our world.
 - Each room has its own recycling area and when these are full the team periodically take the waste from their rooms with the children to stamp on it (lots of fun) and separate it, explaining why etc. They help us recycle plastic, glass, paper, cans, ink cartridges, batteries etc. Anything collected that can't be recycled in the community bins will be taken at various times by the team and children to the correct recycling depot in the city. We have all sorts of collections – batteries, pens, crisp packets and much more. The educational value to the children in doing this is priceless.
- Beach Clean-Ups
 - Our regular beach cleans are an aspect of our provision that we are incredibly proud of. Each month, at low tide (if possible), our pre-schoolers go off to the beach to play games and collect litter. Each clean is preceded by a risk assessment of the area. This is about teaching our children why we should not be careless with litter and the effects it has on ocean life.
- Nursery Environment
 - We try not to use single use plastics. We don't use throw away shoe covers, glitter, sequins, plastic milk bottles, delivery bags, laminating sheets, slippery fish document holders, nappy sacks, baby wipes, or disposable nappies.
 - In our kitchen we do not use tin foil, plastic bags or cling film. We do not get our shopping delivered in bags and buy loose food (not in packaging) wherever possible. We are making every effort to eradicate these or find alternatives.
 - Wherever possible, we reuse furniture or buy second hand.

- We provide activities that are centred around children's interests and current patterns of behaviour. We use natural biodegradable or compostable materials and objects found in nature. We ensure that everything we plan and do enables children's development as they interact with the environment, build an ethos of respect and responsibility, and construct an environmental awareness for life.
- We provide real and natural resources as part of sustainable approach. There are many reasons why 'loose parts' are beneficial. In loose part play children's explorations are open-ended, developing the imagination and critical thinking skills.
- Using natural materials to enhance children's learning encourages children to observe closely and use all their senses.
- As with any other resources we use in our setting, we ensure that the natural materials provided are safe to be used with young children. We are particularly careful if the children are at an age where they are likely to put the natural resources in their mouths.
- We provide a range of natural building resources such as large stones, shells, small branches, off-cuts of wood and pieces of bark to the brick and block sets in the construction area. This encourages children to be creative as they build and encounter a range of problems they must solve as they explore how to build with irregular shaped materials.
- Re-usable Nappies
We provide cloth nappies for all our children, and these are washed and reused. We also use washable liners and washable wipes and clean our children with natural grape seed oil, during nappy changing time.

Economical

- Kitchen Garden
 - We have a large offsite kitchen garden. We believe children need to actively take part in growing food as this is an essential part of learning and a skill for future generations.
 - A large amount of our snacks and meals are made with produce from the kitchen garden
 - Our pre-schoolers take part in weekly sessions at the kitchen garden during the growing season
- Looking After Equipment and Resources
 - Staff ensure all equipment and resources are used, cleaned and stored with respect.
 - Staff ensure shelves in rooms are kept tidy, clean, and ordered.
 - Children are encouraged to move parts from one part of a room/space to another to encourage schemas and 'in flow' play. However, all resources are put back in their designated place at the end of each session, or earlier if not being used by a child.
 - We have a consistent program of upkeep and refurbishment. All staff to share the responsibility of keeping all environments, shared and otherwise, to a high standard.

- Blue tack should not be used on the walls unless completely necessary. If it has been used it is the staff responsibility to remove blue tac when paper has been removed and not leave it on walls
- Cameras, tablets, laptops, the projector, radios, speakers, all chargers and leads and any other electronic devices are treated with care and respect.
- Staff ensure all electronic devices, and their chargers are put back in the locked electronics cupboard every evening.
- Electronic devices are not left unsupervised with children.
- Children are always be encouraged to respect and look after books
- If a book is accidentally broken, children are encouraged to be actively involved in restoring it
- Staff are responsible for the sensible storing and keeping of books in their room. Books aren't left on the floor and always stored safely and neatly
- Coats, shoes, and bags should only be left neatly in designated areas.
- Staff take responsibility for all areas in the nursery, not just their own. Staff keep all communal areas neat and tidy. Areas include bathrooms, kitchen, hallways, porch, children's peg areas, stairs, landings, offices, work room, laundry area, food store, side passage and anything else.
- Nursery buggies are stored safely and neatly in buggy store.
- Staff take Kiddibus outside and cover it, and lock it each day to fire escape, and return it to the buggy store every evening.
- Staff and children take care of plants in their rooms, ensuring they are watered and in good health. Staff are aware of each individual plants needs in their group and make sure they are provided.
- Staff pick up debris/litter from the garden throughout days and encourage children to do the same.
- Staff ensure the workshop at the back is clean, clear, and safe for children always.
- Staff check compost area and rabbit food area regularly and clear if required.
- Garden resources are stored neatly and in correct places to be always accessed easily and safely.
- Staff take an active interest in the woodland garden and the flora and fauna within it, to encourage respect and promote knowledge.
- Staff look after all keys. Whenever used they are returned to the key box in the work room and are never left in different places or taken home by mistake.

• Recycling and Composting

We compost food waste, shredded paper, animal waste and more. We have a large double composter in the garden, a wormery and leaf mulch area. The children learn and understand how to use them, what they are for and why they are so valuable. Waste at Young Friends is minimal – the compost is taken to our kitchen garden and used to grow our food.

Eco Warriors values

Our daily activities are heavily informed by our eco-warrior values:

- Reduce,
- Reuse

- Repair
- Recycle
- Rot
- Respect

External Links and Organisations

Three pillars of sustainability: in search of conceptual origins 2017: [Three pillars of sustainability: in search of conceptual origins \(springer.com\)](https://www.springer.com)

Relevant Policies and Documents

Outdoor Trip Policy
Washable Cloth Nappies Policy
Acceptable Use of Technology Policy
Food Nutrition and Healthy Eating Policy
Learning and Development Policy

Authorisation

Signature:



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