



Environmental sustainability policy

It is a requirement from The Department for Education that 'all education settings will have nominated a sustainability lead and put in place a climate action plan' by September 2025 in line with their Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy. An eco-friendly nursery not only benefits the planet but also supports the healthy growth and development of young children.

Oaklea Montessori nursery sustainability lead is: Amanda Stammers.

At Oaklea Montessori nursery we believe that our Montessori philosophy fits in with sustainability concept, as Montessori once said, "Guide children towards becoming considerate, respectful citizens of the world, valuing all life on our planet and work actively towards not only preserving it but also contributing towards its on-going sustainability" and *'Within the child lies the fate of our future'*

Montessori believed children care deeply about the environment in which they live and learn. She believed that this extended past their home and nursery life into the wider world and community. Exposure to nature not only supports children's physical health but also fosters emotional and cognitive development, helping them appreciate and connect with their environment from a young age.

An environmentally conscious nursery incorporates sustainability directly into its educational approach. Activities such as gardening, nature exploration, and eco-themed projects enable children to develop an understanding of the natural world and their impact on it. At Oaklea Montessori nursery, staff will model eco-friendly behaviours, such as reducing water use, conserving energy, and caring for plants, reinforcing valuable lessons through practical experiences. The goal of environmental education work is to develop good habits both in and beyond the classroom, so that as children grow, they do not think of themselves as making a special effort or taking an extra step beyond their normal activities to be "green." Instead, the discipline of sustainable practice is integrated deeply into their sense of care for the physical environment as a life practice.

We are required to have at least 1 action, what we can do, in the following 4 categories:

1. **Decarbonisation and reducing emissions** - Using less energy and reducing reliance on fossil fuels
2. **Adaptation and Resilience** – Preparing for climate change. Adapting your setting so it stays safe, cool and prepared for extreme weather.

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3. Improving the Environment and Biodiversity- Helping nature thrive . Making your setting more nature-friendly and improving outdoor spaces

4. Climate Education and Green Careers- Helping children and adults understand environmental issues and think about future opportunities.

Below outlines what actions we can take as a setting both as staff and with the children:

Category	What we can do (adults)	What we can do (with/teach the children)
1 Decarbonisation and reducing emissions	Discuss energy usage and energy saving ideas with the landlord committee Staff to use heating only when necessary. Turn off any electrical items when not in use. Buy in season. See leaflet on what is in season. It is tastier and cheaper	Encourage children to place a green hand, next to the lights switch; to remind the last person to turn off lights as they leave the building. Do a bar chart on how children travel to nursery.
2 Adaptation and Resilience	Oaklea has a water butt in the garden to collect rainwater for use of watering plants Create shaded areas in the garden using sail shades and gazebos to protect staff and children from the sun Liaise with landlord to ensure maintenance of gutters and drains to reduce the risk of flooding	Weather related activities – Group time: calendar with weather. Talk to children about why we drink more water in hot weather What they need to keep safe – hat , sunscreen , clothing Talk to children about clothing in different weathers cold weather
3 Improving the Environment and Biodiversity	Use peat free compost for garden projects	Create a wildflower area with the children Make and place bug hotels and bird boxes with the children

		Grow plants, vegetables and herbs Stories including 'Oliver's vegetables and Oliver's fruit'.
4 Climate Education and Green Careers	Placement of recycling bins for adults and children Signage at sinks for use of water and turning off taps	Activities to help children be aware of environmental issues Teach children what goes into the recycling bins – Use of labels and pictures Reading of books and stories reflecting environmental issues (age appropriate)