11 Environmental sustainability policy

Environmental sustainability policy was adopted by ***Chevening School Nursery*** in September 2025.

The Department for Education (DfE) strategy states that: *'By 2025, all education settings will have nominated a sustainability lead and put in place a climate action plan'*. The 4 key pillars that represent aspects of addressing climate change to foster a sustainable future are:

- Decarbonisation
- Biodiversity
- Climate education and green careers goals
- Resilience and adaptation

For Chevening School Nursery these pillars inform our activities in terms of:

Decarbonisation:	Our activities to reduce plastic use Our activities to reduce utility usage Encouraging sustainable transport to and from the provision
Biodiversity:	Fostering children's empathy with nature through exploration Engaging with flora and fauna in the setting and outings to local community spaces
Climate education:	Sharing books, stories and songs with the children on nature and the environment Weaving environment and climate topics into the EYFS areas of learning Encouraging parents to engage with sustainability topics at home
Resilience and adaption:	Reviewing all aspects of our setting's environment to assess what sustainability and climate adaptations can be made Actively considering the risk of extreme weather events on our children, families and provision

Aim

Chevening School Nursery actively promotes environmental sustainability. Our eco-sustainability lead who is the Climate Champion for our setting is: Susie Greenhalf.

Changing perspectives – at *Chevening School Nursery* we will:

- Educate ourselves, our children and our families on what sustainability means and how to respect our planet.
- Weave sustainability into our daily lives and decisions – ask ourselves could this be done in a more sustainable way.
- Display our sustainability policy and educate and inform others on the steps that we are taking.

Objectives

As a setting we are committed to protecting our planet for the next generations to the best of our ability by:

- Reducing the use of plastics – in particular single use plastics (SUPs) in our everyday lives.
- Cutting down on waste by reducing, reusing and recycling (the 3Rs).
- Minimising food waste.
- Caring for the world we live in.

- Changing perspectives and developing understanding in ourselves, our families and our children.

At *Chevening School Nursery* we support children to learn about sustainability - to respect and care for both the living and non-living environment.

Children have the opportunity to learn about and understand sustainability and environmental issues. They will observe adults' model sustainable practices, learn about the world around them and how to protect it. Together we will support the children to develop positive attitudes and values about sustainable practices.

Our curriculum encourages children to explore ideas and practices that promote environmental sustainability and to understand the interdependence between people and the environment.

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

Reducing the use of plastics:

- Reducing the use of plastic bottles and bags as much as possible by finding alternatives and encouraging families / staff to use reusable lunch and drinks containers in lunch boxes.
- Buy milk in large bottles not individual cartons.
- Look for resources that are not just plastic representations when real alternatives are available.
- We support children to experience the natural environment through natural materials.

Cutting down on waste by reducing, reusing and recycling:

- Introduce recycling bins - following the local recycling scheme guidance.
- Take steps to reduce the junk mail sent to the setting.
- Reduce the amount of paper printing.
- Ensure printer and toner cartridges are recycled.
- Recycle any electronic equipment – where possible using an environmentally friendly disposal scheme.
- If the setting has a 'uniform' for children, recycle to new families.
- Encourage families to donate pre-loved clothes, books and toys to charity shops, refugee support groups or to the setting.
- When purchasing new resources, we look for natural rather than plastic.
- Use natural resources such as water with care – ensure taps are turned off and any leaks fixed.
- Recycle water from water play by using it to water plants.
- Using energy saving light bulbs.

Minimising food waste:

- Plan snacks carefully to reduce food waste for example using foods that are in season and being aware of portion sizes.

Caring for the world we live in:

- We help children to explore nature through art and play.
- Educate children not to drop litter.
- Care for the setting environment indoors and out.
- Discover the importance of wildlife to the environment and eco system.

- Use natural resources.
- We shop locally where possible.
- We encourage families to walk, cycle, scoot to our setting.
- We go on nature walks and learn about plants we see in our local area.

References

The Department for Education's Sustainability and climate change strategy:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainability-and-climate-change-strategy/sustainability-and-climate-change-a-strategy-for-the-education-and-childrens-services-systems

Further guidance

To support you, the Alliance has developed the **'*Supporting effective environmental sustainability in early years settings toolkit*'** This is available via EYA Central and costs £58.00 for members. The toolkit is divided into five sections and includes top tips, links and a range of resources for use by both providers and families. The toolkit also includes a climate action template onto which providers can record their current position, achievements to date and set actions to be achieved.

11 Sustainability Lead Climate Action Plan

Vision

Chevening School Nursery will create a nurturing and educational environment that fosters a deep appreciation for the natural world and promotes responsible practices for a sustainable future.

Aims

- Embed sustainability into the curriculum and our daily routines. Empower children to become environmentally conscious.
- Reduce the setting's environmental impact through sustainable operations
- Collaborate with families and the wider community to promote sustainable practices

We assess annually the setting's environmental impact and progress.

Curriculum and learning:

- **Connecting with Nature**
  At Chevening School Nursery we provide regular opportunities for outdoor exploration, including nature walks, gardening and observation of flora and fauna.

  We use natural materials like wood, stone, sand and leaves for play and learning.

  We incorporate nature based themes and stories into our learning activities on a daily basis

  We have planted flowers and created insect houses in our garden to encourage biodiversity.

- **Environmental Literacy**
  We help children to understand the interdependence between humans and the environment.

  We engage our children in discussions about environmental issues such as waste reduction and pollution using stories and songs.

  We use age-appropriate books and resources to introduce sustainability concepts.

- **Practical Sustainability**
  Chevening School Nursery children are involved in recycling and composting activities daily.

  We encourage water conservation through simple actions like turning taps off.

  We teach children about food cycles by growing, harvesting and preparing some of our own produce when possible.

- **Sustainable operations**
  We follow Sevenoaks District Council's guidelines on recycling and reduce waste by reusing materials for crafts and play.

  We encourage parents to use reusable bags and containers for lunch boxes.

A composting system for food waste is in place.

We share our sustainability initiatives through our newsletter and involve parents in sustainability activities like growing vegetables.

- **Energy efficiency**
  We use energy saving light bulbs and appliances where possible.

  Lights are turned off and equipment when not in use or stand by.

  We optimise heating and cooling systems to minimise our energy consumption

  We encourage efficient water use by staff and children

  We collect rainwater for outdoor use to water our plants and for our mud kitchen.

  Regular checks are in place to prevent water wastage.

- **Procurement and resources**
  We purchase second hand resources where possible and source local produce for snacks to reduce food miles when possible.

  Chevening School Nursery encourages the use of eco-friendly and non-toxic cleaning products where possible.

- **Travel**
  Chevening School Nursery promotes active travel options like walking and cycling for staff and families to get to the nursery.

We hope through implementation of these measures our early years setting has created a vibrant and engaging environment where children learn to respect, appreciate, and protect the natural world while also reducing its own environmental impact and contributing to a more sustainable future for all.

This policy/procedure is reviewed annually/amended accordingly/when necessary

November 2026