



Sustainability Policy

At Walmer Bridge Day Nursery, we are developing a sustainability model that meets the needs of our current children, parents, and families, without compromising the future generations. It is a holistic approach that considers the social, environmental, and economic impacts of actions and decisions that we take today. This is a level of ambition that we cannot achieve on our own and we seek to work collaboratively with parents, carers, staff, and the children in helping us. We should all be concerned about the impact our daily lives have on the future and by us all changing a just few small things, we can all have a huge positive impact. We will be using the 17 sustainability goals*, developed by the United Nations, to influence and guide our practice. At Walmer Bridge Day Nursery, we develop the children's 'cultural capital' by providing them with learning opportunities and experiences that enable them to become 'educated citizens'. We wish for our children to become active participants in society who have knowledge and experience of the ways that the world works, how to operate within that world, and how to use their knowledge and experiences to their advantage in order to be successful and thrive with their early education and beyond.

Environmental sustainability (planet)

Environmental sustainability is the ability to maintain an ecological balance in our planet's natural environment and conserve natural resources to support the wellbeing of current and future generations. At Walmer Bridge Day Nursery we are committed to protecting our environment and planet through early education.

We aim to reduce the nursery's carbon footprint by mindfully managing our nursery premises' energy usage by;

- Reducing the use of ceiling lighting and maximising the use of natural light and turning off lights in vacant rooms i.e. the staff room, the kitchen, staff toilets, and store rooms.
- Turning off and unplugging electrical appliances when they are not being used.
- Limiting the use of electrical appliances, where possible e.g. hanging out washing to dry when the weather permits, rather than using the tumble dryer.
- Tracking our energy usage on our meters.
- Teaching the children the importance of only using the energy we need and nursery staff to lead by example.

Families can help us reduce carbon footprint by travelling 'green'; walking or cycling to nursery in preference to the use of a car. This will also help us to promote leading a healthy lifestyle to the children. We are happy to provide a secure place to store your child's bicycle or scooter, if they have travelled to nursery on it.

At Walmer Bridge Day Nursery we conserve water by;

- Limiting the daily use of water appliances e.g. the washing machine and dishwasher and only using them on eco-friendly cycles and only when we have a full load.
- Tracking our water usage on our meter.
- Using the water butt installed in the nursery garden to water the garden plants and for outdoor water play.
- Teaching the children how to use water sensibly i.e. not leaving the taps running when they have washed their hands.
- Teaching the children about why conserving water is important to our world.

At Walmer Bridge Day Nursery, the staff teach the children to always have an appreciation of their natural surroundings. Examples of how we achieve this include;

- Planting flowers and developing a 'bug-hotel' in our nursery garden to increase insect life.
- Having bird feeders in our garden to encourage birds to visit our nursery.
- Going on walks around our rural local area e.g. feeding the ducks and other birds when we visit Longton Brickcroft.
- Teaching the children to be caring and empathic towards living things in our environment, including insects, animals, birds, and plants.

At Walmer Bridge Day Nursery, we make all attempts to minimise and actively manage waste through elimination, reduction, reuse, and recycling. Examples of how we achieve this include;

- Setting up a 'recycling station' in the pre-school outdoor classroom, to begin to recycle materials such as paper, card, cardboard, plastic, tins, and glass, e.g. food packaging.
- Re-using materials such as plastic bottles, containers, and cardboard boxes for junk modelling activities.
- Encouraging the children to distinguish between general waste and recyclable waste.
- Signposting children and families of where they can recycle unwanted items such as clothing, toys, and bric-a-brac e.g. donation bins/banks, charity shops and recycling centre donation points.
- We welcome donations of unwanted clothes and toys for use at nursery – if we receive surplus donations, these will be taken to the local charity shop by the nursery manager. We are also happy to take items to the local charity shop on the behalf of parents, if they have no means of transport.
- We have a textiles bin located on the nursery car park, where staff, parents and members of the local community can recycle unwanted textiles, clothing and shoes. This donation bin also supports the Leukaemia & Myeloma Research UK charity.
- Teaching the children how to dispose of waste whilst out and about and the implications of littering on the environment and wildlife.
- Where available, we use concentrated cleaning products and refillable spray bottles, to reduce our use of single-use plastic.
- Minimising the use of plastic nappy sacks, only using them when disposing of soiled nappies, not wet nappies.

- Minimising the number of disposable wet-wipes – children should use washable, reusable flannels to wash/clean their faces after meals.
- Minimising the number of disposable paper towels being used and/or wasted, by installing new wall dispensers.
- Where possible, we purchase food products with minimal packaging and without plastic.
- Purchasing less single-purpose plastic toys and introducing more open-ended, recycled, and re-purposed materials and resources for our learning environments e.g. from charity shops and car boot sales.
- We minimise our food waste by meal planning, following our nursery menu, buying 'smart' by only purchasing enough food for the number of children attending each day, and only cooking quantities of food guided by the recommended portion sizes for children.

Social sustainability (people)

Social sustainability involves a focus on the well-being of people and communities. It is about promoting equity, human rights, access to education, healthcare, and employment. At Walmer Bridge Day Nursery, we are committed to protecting children's rights and we always promote the child's voice, as all children have the right to be heard. The children, parents, carers, and staff are all protected by the Equality Act (2010)**. At Walmer Bridge Day Nursery, we provide equal opportunities for everyone, we embrace diversity, and we ensure that our practices are always inclusive. At Walmer Bridge Day Nursery we promote the awareness of different religions, traditions, cultural beliefs and preferences. The nursery staff also ensure to tackle any stereotyping, labelling, prejudice, and discrimination. The nursery staff teach the children about social sustainability by promoting the 4 British Values;

- Democracy – by listening to the children's opinions, encouraging them to consider the opinions of their peers, and promote decision making.
- Rule of law – by negotiating, implementing, and following fair class rules, adhering to policies and procedures, and by following routines and respecting boundaries.
- Individual liberty – by encouraging the children to freely share their thoughts, ideas, and opinions, and respect other's thoughts, ideas, and opinions.
- Mutual respect and tolerance – by teaching about different religions, traditions, and preferences.
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Economic sustainability (profits)

Economic sustainability is the approach whereby economic activities are conducted in such a way as to preserve and promote long-term economic well-being. In practice, it aims to create a balance between economic growth, resource efficiency, social equity and financial stability. At Walmer Bridge Day Nursery, we facilitate economic sustainability by;

- Offering flexible funded nursery sessions to support working families.
- We use any additional funding to provide stimulating and thought-provoking activities and provisions, which allow children to explore ideas and concepts they may not have previously been exposed to.
- Supporting other local and family-run businesses.
- Teaching the children about basic finances and the value of money by providing them with opportunities to engage in real money exchange (rather than card) i.e. trips to the local shop.

- Encouraging the children to think critically and ask critical questions through promoting the Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning.
- Where possible, we source local and/or in-season food produce and we have begun to grow our own herb plants in the nursery garden.
- Purchasing our milk from Bates Dairy Farm, based locally in Southport.
- We practise 'mindful spending' and we are conscious of what we buy, and how the nursery budgets are spend.
- We support parents, carers, and families to develop and maintain good financial behaviour e.g. by shopping more sustainably at charity shops or via apps such as 'Vinted' and websites such as 'Freecycle'.

*[UK and the Sustainable Development Goals - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

** [Equality Act 2010 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
30 th March 2024	Katy-Leigh Eastham (Nursery Manager) 	March 2025
This policy was reviewed on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Changes made?
11 th March 2025	Katy-Leigh Eastham (Nursery Manager) 	Addition of the textiles donation bin March 2026