

## Wildlings



## Environmental Policy

### **Policy Statement**

At Wildlings we understand the importance of the natural world to inspire, engage and enthuse everyone in our community. We believe it is essential to care for the environment and the places we visit as well as having an awareness and understanding of the effects our actions have on where we live and play. We encourage everyone to respect the natural world, taking responsibility for our actions and instilling a sense of duty and care for the world in which we live.

We encourage our staff and families to think about the environment and the impact their actions have on it. We encourage a sense of awe and wonder for the natural world in everything we do. We have a leave no trace policy and always aim to leave as we find. We use our outdoor sites with care ensuring minimum disturbance to habitats and wildlife. We are respectful and considerate in our approach but believe the natural world and the creatures that live in it should be closely observed and carefully handled to foster a future generation of custodians.

We are mindful in the materials we use and the waste we produce. We recycle, repurpose and reuse materials wherever possible. We aim to repair what is damaged and responsibly dispose of anything beyond repair. We respect our neighbours and aim to make the community in which we live a better place.

### **Procedures**

We aim to re-use, reduce, recycle, repair and repurpose using appropriate materials wherever we can. Much of our equipment in the hall and the woods is second-hand, reclaimed or repurposed. We also accept donated materials to limit our need to buy from new only doing so when there is no suitable alternative. We will be mindful in our use of energy and resources only using what is necessary.

#### Energy

We aim to limit our energy consumption as far as possible. For example:

- We will switch off lights when they are not in use or it is bright enough outside.
- We will replace our current light bulbs with energy efficient ones when they break.
- We will keep outside doors shut in cold weather.
- Whenever weather conditions allow we will hang washing and kit up to dry rather than using electrical equipment to aid the process.

#### Water

We aim to limit our water consumption as far as possible. For example:

- When indoors, we will make sure we turn off taps when they are no longer needed.
- We will not waste water while in the hall or woods reminding children of the importance to turn off taps.
- We will save laundry until there is a full load to run the washing machine.
- We will use tippy taps in the woods or monitor the use of water container taps to reduce the amount of water needed for hand washing.

- We use reusable containers to transport water for drinking, hand washing and play.

## Paper

We aim to limit our paper consumption as far as possible. For example:

- We use paper sparingly but when we do use it we encourage the children to use both sides of the paper.
- We recycle or compost paper materials wherever possible.
- We use repurposed, recycled, natural or re-usable materials above paper when appropriate such as chalkboards or cardboard from boxes.

## Plastic

We aim to limit our use of plastic where possible. We reuse as much as possible and recycle whatever we can when it can no longer be used.

- As far as is practicable we use reusable washable cloths and paper towels rather than wipes in all settings.
- The use of wipes will be limited and disposed of in the general refuse. Wipes should never be flushed down the toilet.
- Where ever possible buy in bulk to reduce the amount of plastic packaging.

## Resources and equipment

We will be mindful of the resources and equipment we purchase and their environmental impact favouring resources made of recyclable materials where possible.

- We will purchase good quality resources to ensure longevity and that they are robust enough to withstand rigorous use in an early years setting.
- We will repair whatever we can, repurpose what can't be repaired and recycle what can't be repurposed. General refuse should be the last resort.
- Children are encouraged to treat all of our equipment with care and respect.
- We will use up our supply of glitter and not repurchase it once it is gone.

## Toileting and waste

We will limit our impact on the natural world disposing of all waste responsibly and leaving the places we visit better than we find. For example:

- When using a portable toilet or potty we will contain waste using potty liners to be taken away to be disposed of.
- Any litter or food waste will be taken from site and disposed or recycled as appropriate.
- We will use a wormery and compost bin at the hall to reduce the waste we put into general refuse.
- Any litter found will be collected and disposed of or recycled as appropriate.
- Bio Biodegradable soaps will be used for handwashing when outdoors.
- Explore how to influence the wider community in our waste and recycling approach such as becoming a teracycle recycling point at the hall and organising community litter picks.

## Wildlife & Environment

Children are encouraged to be curious and respect the environment. We will be gentle and considerate with the natural world and the creatures that live there. For example:

- Each site we use will have an environmental impact assessment detailing areas that are suitable to use and anywhere that is sensitive.
- We will only pick flowers and leaves that are in abundance following the 1 in 20 rule. If in doubt, don't pick.
- All living creatures will be handled gently and returned to their original habitat.
- We will ensure that we never trample flowers or vegetation, following paths wherever possible and using areas that are grass or devoid of ground flora.
- We will closely monitor sites to ensure there is limited damage. We will leave the sites as we find them. If damage starts to occur we will move to another site or change practices to limit damage and allow sites to recover.
- We will be mindful to disturbance to wildlife. During the spring we will avoid going into scrubby areas to limit disturbance during the bird nesting season.
- We will limit digging and ground disturbance. Only using suitable areas and return it to how we found it.

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*Reviewed date:*