

Wildlings Environmental Conservation Policy



The main purpose of our Environmental policy is to set out how we will interact with our environment every day.

We aim to:

- Educate the children about the environment – for them to develop a sound base of knowledge, understanding and skills that children will need to make sense of environmental issues.
- To provide education in the environment – to give children first-hand experience of the natural environment.
- To provide stimulus for learning a wide range of skills through education through the environment.
- Education for the environment focuses on sustainable solutions to environmental problems, taking into account that there are conflicting interests and different perspectives.

Aims and objectives

We believe it is essential for the Wildlings community to have an awareness and understanding of the effects their actions have on the environment in which we live and play each day. We encourage everyone to respect the natural world, take responsibility for their actions and aim to instill a sense of duty and care for the world in which we live.

We encourage our staff, children and families to think about the environment and how their actions may impact upon it. To this end we encourage and reinforce environmental education in all aspects of everyday life.

We encourage a sense of awe and wonder for the natural world in everything we do believing that we need children to grow up knowing about nature and appreciating it in order to understand and protect it. Therefore, while being respectful and considerate in our approach we 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 of the materials we use and the waste we produce aim to reduce this. 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 for example by creating a community garden at our hall site, doing local litter picks, and out work with the church and the Grith Pioneers.

Procedures

We aim to re-use, reduce, repurpose, recycle and repair using appropriate materials wherever we can. Much of our equipment, both in the hall and the forest 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.

We are also working to restore the natural environment through our work with the Grith pioneers to rewild a piece of land near Shining Cliff woods (where our woods sessions are based), installing planters and flower beds at our hall setting, as well as developing insect friendly log piles and bug hotels.

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.
- Wherever possible we will use energy efficient light bulbs.
- Whenever weather conditions allow, we 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:

- We will make sure we turn off taps when they are no longer needed.
- We will remind children about turning taps off once they have used them.
- In the woods or monitor the use of water container taps to reduce the amount of water needed for hand washing.
- We will save laundry until there is a full load to run the washing machine.
- 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, cardboard from boxes, large pieces of fabric and creating land art and collages.
- As far as is practicable we use reusable cloths and paper towels rather than wipes in all settings

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.
- Wherever possible buy in bulk to reduce the amount of plastic packaging.

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 outdoors wherever possible a portable toilet or potty will be used to contain waste. We will use a nappy in the bottom of this to soak up the waste and that will be taken away to be disposed of.
- The use of wipes will be limited and disposed of in the bin. Wipes should never be flushed down the toilet.
- When in the woods we will leave no trace removing all our waste when we leave. Any litter found will be collected and disposed of or recycled as appropriate.
- We will use a compost bin at the hall to reduce the waste we put into general refuse. We will compost our food waste, tea bags, coffee grounds.
- We will use eco-friendly and Biodegradable soaps and washing liquid.
- We will involve the wider community in our waste and recycling approach such as organising community litter picks and growing herbs/vegetables/fruit in our community garden.

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 equipment wherever 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 our equipment/resources with care and respect.
- We will use up our supply of glitter and not repurchase it once it is gone unless it is environmentally friendly.

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:

- Children are encouraged to respect the environment and taught how important and influential their actions are to caring for the planet.
- We will be gentle and considerate with the natural world.
- 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 do our best not to trample flowers or vegetation by following worn paths wherever possible.
- We will rotate our use of sites in the woods and closely monitor them to ensure there is limited damage.
- We have a leave no trace policy and aim to leave our woodland sites as we find them. If damage starts to occur we will move to another site or change practises to limit damage and to allow site to recover.
- We use our outdoor sites with care ensuring minimum disturbance to habitats and wildlife. During the spring we will avoid going to scrubby areas to limit disturbance during the bird nesting season.

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