

Sustainability and Climate Change Policy



Our Values and Ethos

At Alfresco Childcare, our commitment to sustainability and climate action is deeply rooted in our Forest School ethos. We believe that by fostering a deep, meaningful connection to nature in the early years, we empower children to become thoughtful, respectful, and responsible stewards of the Earth.

Through regular and consistent time spent in natural environments, children develop a lasting bond with the world around them. This connection inspires care, curiosity, and a sense of responsibility for protecting and preserving the planet.

We value:

- **Connection to Nature:** Forest School places the natural world at the heart of learning. We encourage children to develop empathy for living things and to see themselves as part of nature, not separate from it.
- **Child-Led Exploration and Learning:** We believe children are capable, curious learners. Our approach supports them in discovering environmental principles through real-life, hands-on experiences—building shelters, observing wildlife, and engaging with seasonal changes.
- **Respect and Care:** Children learn to respect the natural environment through sustainable practices such as leave-no-trace principles, mindful harvesting, and looking after local ecosystems.
- **Holistic Development:** Forest School supports the development of the whole child—physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually. A sustainability ethos reinforces this by nurturing a sense of purpose, empathy, and global citizenship.
- **Long-Term Relationship with the Outdoors:** We create regular opportunities for children to experience nature in all weathers and seasons, building resilience and a lifelong love of the environment.
- **Community and Shared Responsibility:** Sustainability is a shared journey. We work in partnership with families, staff, and the wider community to model and promote environmentally conscious choices and collective action.

Our ethos is one of **respect, reflection, and resilience**. Through our Forest School-inspired approach, we aim to cultivate a generation of environmentally aware individuals who care deeply about the Earth and are empowered to protect it.

Climate Action Plan

Our Climate Action Plan outlines our targets and the steps we are taking improve the sustainability of our setting across the following areas:

Our Curriculum – We will provide our learners with a curriculum which teaches the importance of sustainability and how to live a more sustainable lifestyle.

Food Management – Including minimising food waste whilst ensuring our menu offers locally sourced and seasonal food.

Energy – Reducing our environmental impact by taking steps to limit energy consumption.

Water - We understand that water is a valuable natural resource and it is essential to use it wisely and sparingly.

Waste Reduction/Disposal - We are committed to reducing the amount of waste we produce as a setting and to disposing of it as much as possible in an eco-friendly way to avoid unnecessarily sending waste to landfills. To ensure that we can limit the amount of waste generated in our setting, we aim to instil proactive sustainability practices in our learners and staff to ensure that, wherever possible, materials are recycled and repurposed.