

CLIMATE ACTION POLICY

INTRODUCTION

At Ash & Claire Childminding, we are committed to supporting children's understanding of their world and promoting a sustainable future. We recognise our responsibility to reduce our environmental impact and provide a setting where children learn to care for the environment. This policy outlines our approach to climate action and aligns with the EYFS 2024 framework and upcoming government expectations for early years providers.

OUR COMMITMENT

We believe that early years settings play a vital role in addressing climate change through education, sustainable practice, and by fostering respect for the natural world. Our climate actions are integrated across our daily routines, resources, environment, and the curriculum.

AIMS OF THIS POLICY

- To reduce our setting's environmental impact through sustainable practices.
- To increase children's awareness of environmental issues in age-appropriate ways.

- To engage with families and the local community in supporting sustainable behaviours.
- To reflect government priorities and the changing EYFS expectations around climate action and sustainability.

DAILY PRACTICE & SUSTAINABILITY

- We minimise single-use plastics and encourage the use of reusable items wherever possible (e.g. water bottles, containers).
- We recycle paper, cardboard, plastic, and tins in line with local council guidance.
- We repurpose materials for crafts and messy play to reduce waste.
- We use energy and water mindfully – turning off lights when not needed and encouraging the children to do the same.
- We choose natural and eco-friendly materials where possible for toys and resources.

OUTDOOR LEARNING & NATURE CONNECTION

We believe outdoor learning is key to developing environmental awareness.

Inspired by the Scottish Care Inspectorate's *My World Outdoors* framework, we:

- Prioritise regular access to outdoor spaces, parks, woods, and nature walks.
- Encourage exploration and play with natural materials (e.g. leaves, mud, sand, water).
- Promote respect for wildlife and living things.
- Use outdoor learning to support EYFS outcomes in Understanding the World, Communication, Physical Development, and PSED.

Although *My World Outdoors* is a Scottish framework, we believe its principles of outdoor learning, environmental stewardship, and child-centred exploration complement and enhance our practice under the English EYFS. We use it as a source of inspiration while aligning our curriculum and environment with national and local guidance applicable to Hampshire and the wider South of England.

CHILDREN'S LEARNING & VOICE

- We include books, stories, songs, and activities about nature, seasons, recycling, and climate.
- Children are encouraged to care for plants, grow food in small pots, and water them.
- We support children to develop a sense of responsibility by including them in small, everyday tasks like sorting recycling or litter-picking.
- Children's thoughts and questions about the world around them are valued and form part of our ongoing planning.

WORKING WITH FAMILIES

- We communicate with parents and carers about our climate practices and encourage sustainable behaviours at home (e.g. reusable lunch packaging).
- We welcome donations of natural and recycled materials for play.
- We share local events and tips for eco-friendly living.

RESPONDING TO NEW GUIDANCE

We are aware of the Department for Education's increasing focus on sustainability and climate awareness within early years education. We will continue to review our practice and policies to reflect:

- Updates to EYFS guidance
- Local Authority climate education initiatives
- Emerging national expectations for early years climate action plans

MONITORING & REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure we are meeting our sustainability goals and keeping in line with evolving guidance.

LAST UPDATED: JUNE 2025
NEXT REVIEW: JUNE 2026