**Eco policy**

Aims and Objectives

It is important for Windmill Pre-School and its community, children, parents and staff, to have an awareness of understanding the effects of their actions upon the environment in which they live, work and play. In order to do this we need to take responsibility for our own actions and we need to have a sense of duty and care for the world in which we live.

We encourage both staff and pupils to think about their environment and how their actions impact upon the national and global picture. To this end we encourage and reinforce environmental education in all aspects of everyday life and the wider community.

The ways in which we work towards this goal is to reduce the amount of materials we use and produce, recycle and re-use materials wherever possible, restore what is deemed to have been destroyed and respect our neighbours and our environment.

Reduce

Energy

* We will switch off lights when they are not in use.
* We will make sure we turn off taps when they are no longer needed.
* Turn the photocopier onto sleep mode when not in use.
* Turn all appliances off at the wall when not in use.
* Turn off all water heaters at the end of the day.

Paper

We will reduce the amount of paper we use by:-

* Only printing essential documents/photographs from the computer
* Where possible use the double sided printing option to reduce the amount of paper used
* To send parents/carers information by email
* To use donated scrap paper in the classrooms

Transport

* To encourage our pupils to walk to school or if using a vehicle for it to be parked in areas of village and supporting Brill School in their mission to reduce parking anywhere near school.

Re-use

Snack

* We will endeavor to compost snack and remains of the children’s lunch. We have a food waste caddy bin in each class and the kitchen and waste will be composted off site.

Gardening

* Gardening waste will be placed over at Forest School.

**Donated materials**

* We will always endeavour to use donated materials/items and where uses cannot be found, we will endeavour to recycle it.

**Paper**

* We use scrap paper/donated paper in the classrooms
* Paper will be used on both sides wherever possible.

**Recycle**

At Windmill Pre-School we recycle a range of materials:

* Paper is collected in a box in the office
* We recycle everyday materials and dispose of it in the recycling bin for collection

**Restore**

* The children are able to study flora and fauna in their habitat in both the garden areas and at Forest School. Children will be encouraged to return all living creatures to their original habitat.
* Areas disturbed by sport, by accident, or by malicious damage will if possible be restored to its original condition.
* Children will be encouraged to treat all school equipment with respect. Books and other equipment will be repaired wherever possible.

 **Respect**

* Our first and most important pre-school rule is that we will respect one another. This rule will permeate all we do whether it is discussing global issues, welcoming people of different races, faiths, abilities, or dealing on a daily basis with each other.
* We will extend this respect to the environment and all living creatures.

**Outdoor Environment**

Research shows that being in the outdoor environment has a significant effect on children. The Pre-School gardens are the one external environment to which all children have regular access, and in some instances they may provide the only regular experience of the outdoors. They may provide unique experiences, opportunities and resources for teaching and learning in a safe and supervised external environment. We aim for our grounds to be a stimulating and enjoyable place for work and play.

We encourage the children and assist them with planting flowers, vegetables and to care for their growth with watering, tending them.

**Assessment**

Windmill Pre-School has gained a green flag award in recognition of our work towards the environment.

This Policy was adopted and approved on 7th November 2019 by the Eco Committee. It was reviewed on 25th April 2023 with no amendments.

Bryony Smith – Chair of Windmill Pre-School Management Committee

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Claire Baker – Manager of Windmill Pre-School

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