Sustainability and Climate Change Policy

1. Statement of intent

Tywardreath Pre-School Playgroup is committed to promoting environmental sustainability and tackling climate change. We recognise our crucial role in educating and inspiring the next generation to be responsible members of our planet. Our policy is guided by the Department for Education's *Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy*, which aims for the UK to be a world-leading sector in sustainability and climate education by 2030.

2. Aims

This policy is designed to achieve the following:

- Decarbonisation: Reduce the setting's direct and indirect carbon emissions.
- Adaptation and resilience: Ensure our building and practices are resilient to the effects of climate change, such as overheating and flooding.
- Environmental improvement: Enhance biodiversity and improve access to nature for children.
- Climate education: Provide a rich, practical, and age-appropriate education on climate change and sustainability.
- Community engagement: Empower and involve staff, children, and their families in our sustainability journey.

3. Strategic areas of action

3.1 Leadership and management

- Sustainability Lead: A dedicated Sustainability Lead will be appointed to champion and oversee the setting's climate action plan. Our Sustainability Lead is **Tracey Lewarne**.
- Action Plan: We will develop and review a climate action plan annually, setting Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-bound (SMART) goals.
- Training and Development: The setting's leadership will stay informed of key sustainability issues and ensure staff receive ongoing training to embed sustainable practices.

3.2 Operations and infrastructure

- Energy: Reduce energy consumption by switching off lights and appliances when not in use, using energy-efficient equipment, and line-drying laundry where possible.

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- Waste and recycling: Minimise waste by reducing, reusing, and recycling materials. We also educate children on sustainable living practices, such as growing food in our pre-school garden. We no longer provide paper towels for hand drying. Each child has a hand towel on their named peg.
- Water: Educate children on water conservation. We will explore using rainwater butts for garden activities and repairing any leaks promptly.
- Procurement: Favour local and sustainably sourced products, reduce single-use plastics, and use non-toxic, biodegradable cleaning products.
- Premises: Assess and adapt the building to be more climate resilient, for example, by planting shade-giving trees and growing vegetables in the garden.

3.3 Curriculum and pedagogy

- Connection with Nature: Use outdoor space to foster a love for the natural world and enhance biodiversity.
- Practical Learning: Provide children with practical opportunities to engage with sustainability, such as growing fruit and vegetables, caring for living things, and participating in recycling.
- Eco-activities: Integrate sustainability themes into daily play and learning, including sorting and classifying natural items and reusing materials for creative projects.
- Learning Resources: Use books and discussions to introduce children to concepts of climate change and environmental protection in an age-appropriate manner.

3.4 Community and family engagement

- Shared Ethos: Share sustainable messages and practices with families, encouraging them to continue the ethos at home.
- Active Travel: Encourage walking, cycling, or using public transport for journeys to the setting.
- Parental Involvement: Invite parents and carers to contribute to our sustainability efforts, for example, by bringing in recycling for craft activities.

4. Roles and responsibilities

- Sustainability Lead: Oversees the policy's implementation and acts as a key point of contact.
- All Staff: Embed sustainable practices in daily routines, participate in training, and model positive environmental behaviours.

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- Parents and Carers: Support the setting's policy and reinforce sustainable messages at home.
- Children: Participate in practical activities, contribute ideas, and learn about the importance of caring for their environment.

5. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the setting's committee team and staff, and in consultation with parents where appropriate, to ensure its continued effectiveness and alignment with national guidance.

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