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| **Introduction** |
| **Little Birch Pre-School’s environmental sustainability policy outlines our intention to encourage and increase awareness of environmental responsibilities and implement practices that contribute to a sustainable future. Children can be supported to become environmentally responsible and show respect for the environment. Environmentally sustainable practices are becoming embedded into the operations of the pre-school and involve staff, children and their families in order to be successful.** |

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| **Procedures** |
| **Goals**   * Little Birch Pre-School will ensure the environment is safe, clean and well-maintained. Children’s awareness of the environment will be promoted through daily practices, resources and interactions. Sustainable practices will be encouraged within the pre-school. Staff, children and parents/carers will be encouraged to become advocates for a sustainable future.   **Strategies**   * Little Birch Pre-School will encourage staff, children and their families to engage in innovative practices and appreciate the wonder of the natural world, whilst protecting the planet for future generations. * Staff will aim to make sustainable practices part of the daily routine. These include: * Recycling * Gardening * Energy Conservation * Water Conservation * Sustainable Equipment Purchases   **Staff will:**   * Include recycling as part of everyday practice at the pre-school. Recycling containers will be provided throughout the pre-school. * Role model sustainable practices. * Discuss sustainable practices with the children and their families as part of the pre-school curriculum. * Provide information to families on sustainable practices that are implemented at the pre-school and encourage the application of these practices in the home environment * Share ideas between staff, children and their families about sustainable ideas, implementation and resources. This can be done at parent meetings, through the pre-school Facebook presence, newsletters and conversations. * Role model energy and water conservation practices of turning off lights when a room is not in use, emptying water play containers onto garden areas, aim to purchase equipment that is eco-friendly where possible. * Aim to reduce the amount of plastic and disposable equipment purchased for the pre-school and select materials that are made of natural materials and fibers. * Seek to embed sustainable practice in the early years. The concepts of ‘Reduce, Re-Use and Recycle’ will become part of everyday practice for both children and staff to build lifelong positive attitudes towards sustainable practices. * Use local Council and Government departments and initiatives as sources of information on sustainable practices used in the local community. They will liaise with the Council and Government departments for possible grants available to put in place water and energy conservation practices in early years services. This may include water tanks, converting toilet cisterns to dual flush and converting to water saving taps. |