

## **Jellytots Playgroup Sustainability and Climate Change Policy**

Sustainability is an essential and integral part of our daily routines at Jellytots. We wish to instil an understanding and awareness of the importance of sustainable practices, and reduce our carbon footprint and impact on the planet. Our commitment to sustainability aligns with the Government's goals to become a net zero nation. By using this resource, we are not only teaching children about the importance of sustainable living but also contributing to a larger movement towards a sustainable future.

### **Why it matters in Early Years**

- **Develop Values** – It forms fundamental values and positive attitudes towards the environment from a young age.
- **Builds Responsibilities** – Teaching connections and social responsibilities, promoting empathy.
- **Fosters Skills** – Encourages critical thinking and problem solving. Resourcefulness in using recycled, reclaimed and natural materials for play and learning to promote creativity.
- **Empowers Children** – Helps children see themselves as capable stewards of the Earth, boosting confidence.

**Our Curriculum** - We provide the children with relevant books, stories and resources that we include within our recycling and growing topics that are revisited in our planning during the year. We connect with nature outside and grow things for our garden. We visit our local farm. We help to teach children the importance of sustainability and how to live a more sustainable lifestyle as they grow, embedding good practices for their future.

**Food Management** - To ensure that we meet sustainability expectations relating to the management of food within activities and mealtimes, we talk about where our food comes from, eat healthily, and show how we can compost waste to grow seeds, flowers and food in the spring. We encourage parents and children to **not use** plastic bags for snack items (washable tubs are better).

**Energy** - To reduce our environmental impact, our setting aims to, where possible, monitor and limit our energy consumption (electricity and gas). We rent our mobile from the school so the energy audit which will include energy saving ideas etc. will be in their policy. We teach children about electricity and why it is important to save it, for example turning off lights when not in a room.

**Water** - We understand that water is a valuable natural resource and that using it wisely and sparingly is essential. To reduce our water consumption within the setting and in our outdoor provision we remind children about turning off water taps when washing their hands. We have a water butt and use it to water our plants along with water tray water. We use rainwater in our sand tray covers for some of our water play outside.

**Transport and Travel** - We will endeavour to promote sustainable practices relating to transport and travel. We talk to the children about traveling by more sustainable, environmentally friendly means, including walking, cycling, scooting and (when necessary) public transport. This will enable our setting to reduce its carbon footprint and decrease the number of vehicles on the roads.

**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 and toys are recycled and repurposed. The children know where we recycle paper/card, old clothes pre-loved uniforms and food. We use biodegradable bags where possible. We buy good second-hand toys and books and always repair and fix where we can.

Our Sustainability and Climate Change Lead is the Manager Jan John.

Policy Adopted on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – R Cockbill Chairperson

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