**Section – 3.5 Environmental Responsibilities**

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**Policy Statement**

Little Apples of Bramley recognises that we have an impact on the environment and a duty to minimise this impact. Our Environmental Policy sets out how we aim to reduce our environmental impact by reducing our energy, water and waste. We are committed to educating children about the importance of sustainability and provide opportunities for them to be involved in environmental initiatives.

**Sustainability planning and Climate Change Lead**

Little Apples has a sustainability plan which forms part of our development plan and Curriculum planning. We have a Climate Change lead who is detailed on our curriculum board and information.

Our plan includes:

Education of children and families

Long term plans for redevelopment of site and garden

Steps that have been taken in the short term

The plan is reviewed termly and staff, committee members and parents are welcome to contribute suggestions.

**Recycling**

Little Apples is aware of the legal requirements for all UK workplaces to separate out recyclable waste before disposal.

Both Little Apples and the Trust that manages our site are micro-firms, who do not have to comply until March 2027 and as such, facilities are not provided. We are in discussions with them to address this within this timeframe.

Whilst we cannot remove recyclable waste from site as disposal with domestic recycling is contra to domestic recycling regulations, we are working to minimise the negative impact of these barriers by:

* Recycling paper and cardboard through using for children’s art, craft and junk modelling.
* Fully utilising the composting facilities on site for brown waste and appropriate food waste.
* Robust management of kitchen systems to minimise food waste.
* Excess provisions e.g milk donated to local families in need.
* Exploring environmentally friendly alternatives. Examples already employed are providing re-usable wax paper instead of cling film and washable flannels instead of disposable wipes to minimise waste
* Fully utilising donations of pre-owned toys

**Guidance**

Recycling in our sector:[Simpler recycling: workplace recycling in England - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/simpler-recycling-workplace-recycling-in-england)

Defra: [Education](https://businessofrecycling.wrap.ngo/recycling-guide/education)

[Sustainability leadership and climate action plans in education - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sustainability-leadership-and-climate-action-plans-in-education)

Dr Diane Boyd’s [sustainability matters in early childhood resource](https://www.ncfe.org.uk/media/p1socs4v/sustainability-matters-in-early-childhood-resource.pdf)

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| **This policy was adopted by Little Apples of Bramley** |
| **On 6th May 2025** |
| **Date to be reviewed** |
| **Signed on behalf of the management committee *J V Whatley*** |
| **Name of signatory J V Whatley** |
| **Role of signatory Manager** |