



# Environmental Policy

## Introduction

It is important for the ACE community to have an awareness and understanding of the effects of our actions upon the environment in which we live, work and relax. In order to do this, we need to take responsibility for our own actions and have a sense of duty and care for the world in which we live.

ACE's Environmental Education is cross curricular and opportunities are provided for learning **about, in, through, and for** the environment:

- Education **about** the environment – to develop a sound base of knowledge, understanding and skills that children will need to make sense of environmental issues
- To provide education **in** the environment – to give children first-hand experience of various local environments
- To provide stimulus for learning a wide range of skills through secondary sources – education **through** the environment
- Education **for** the environment focuses on sustainable solutions to environmental problems, taking into account that there are conflicting interests and different perspectives

## Aims and Objectives

ACE's approach is to consider our environmental responsibilities wherever possible, and to instil a sense of pride and care within staff, children, volunteers, parents and carers.

1. **Encouraging staff and children 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.
2. **Striving to minimise our impact on the environment.** We work to **reduce** the amount of materials we use and the waste we produce, **recycle** and **re-use** materials wherever possible, **restore** what is deemed to have been destroyed and **respect** our neighbours and our environment.

## 1. ENCOURAGING STAFF AND CHILDREN TO THINK ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

### Early Years Foundation Stage

Children will engage in activities that:

- Encourage exploration and observation of the local environment by having regular trips outside the nurseries
- Encourage problem solving, decision making and critical thinking
- Encourage children to think and respond to what they see, touch, smell and feel in the local environment

- Explore the visual elements in natural and man-made objects including resources from their locality and different cultures

### **Outdoor environment**

Children who attend the Nursery have regular access to the garden area which we aim will provide unique experiences, opportunities and resources learning in a safe supervised environment. Our intention is for the garden to be a safe, stimulating and enjoyable place to play and learn which:

- Enriches all areas of the curriculum
- Encourages curiosity
- Helps the boys and girls to develop a broad range of skills, knowledge and understanding
- Affords opportunities for the children to work together; setting up equipment/tidy up time/ gardening, litter picking etc encouraging a sense of pride, ownership and responsibility
- Offers opportunities for growing and using some of our own fruit and vegetables

We also run Forest School activities which enable the children to enjoy and value the local environment.

### **Communications**

- Share key messages and ideas for “green” activities with parents/carers through weekly update and newsletters
- Email policy to all parents once adopted
- Have a copy of this policy, along with other related policies, available for parents to read in our policy folder
- Use policy to make decisions on future ACE social event resources / activities and refreshments

## **2. STRIVING TO MINIMISE OUR IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

### **Reduce**

#### **Energy**

- We will switch off lights when they are not in use
- We will keep outside doors and windows shut in cold weather
- We will make sure we turn off taps when they are no longer needed
- We will review ACE’s energy supply and consider the feasibility of moving to a renewable energy supplier when the next contract is due
- Use low energy light bulbs whenever possible
- Ensure heating system is on a timed/thermostat control so that the building is not being heated out of hours.

#### **Procurement**

When ACE procures items for nursery use, where possible staff and volunteers, parents and carers should consider a product’s provenance. Sourcing ‘good’ products can be challenging, but ACE wishes to encourage a sense of care and pride in our purchasing. This includes:

- Food purchased for ACE Day Nursery is entirely vegetarian
- Fair trade and organic items food will sometimes be used
- Food purchased, especially fruit and vegetables, is often local, reducing food miles associated with the purchase
- Use of environmentally friendly cleaning products where possible
- Recycled paper products are used whenever possible

- Glitter is no longer used in the Nursery School or Day Nursery

### **Paper and printing**

- Writing and printing on both side of the paper whenever possible
- Paper will be re-used by the staff whenever possible
- Display paper will be taken down carefully and re-used wherever possible
- Emailing information to parents when a hard copy is not required
- Having recycle paper bins in Big Room, Art Room and the Office
- Using recycled paper whenever possible
- Recycle ink cartridges from office printers
- Purchase Inkjet printer whenever possible

### Re-use

#### **Fruit and food waste**

- We have a food compost bin in the main kitchen which the children and staff use after snack times and lunchtime
- We have a food compost bin in the staff kitchen for use after their lunch
- A green compost bin is located in the front garden and this is emptied once a fortnight by the local council

#### **Gardening**

- Gardening waste will be put into the garden compost bin and/or green compost bin as mentioned above

#### **Donated materials**

- ACE will try to find uses for donated materials. Containers may be to help with storage, and diverse materials can be used in the art room
- Wellington boots are donated by parents/carers for other children to use when at the nursery
- Where uses cannot be found, we will endeavour to recycle it

### Recycle

- ACE aims to recycle as much waste as possible
- Paper is collected in paper bins in the Big Room, Art Room and Office
- There are clearly labeled bins in each area indicating the everyday materials which can be recycled
- Lost property items, such as clothing and toys which are not collected at the end of the year, are taken to charity shops
- We recycle the everyday materials which can be placed in the purple wheelie bin, which is then emptied weekly by the local council
- ACE avoids - whenever possible - the use of non-recyclable materials/products, and products made from unsustainable materials
- Where possible rechargeable batteries will be used, otherwise they will be recycled through the local council / Tesco visits

### Restore

- 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 rule is that we will respect one another. This rule permeates all we do whether it is discussing the wider world, welcoming people from different cultures, faiths, abilities, or dealing with each other on a daily basis
- We will extend this respect to the environment and all living creatures:
  - o We have a 'bug hotel' in the garden for the children to investigate and explore living things and their habitats
  - o Children will be encouraged to return all living creatures to their original habitat

### **Other related Policies:**

- Health and Safety Policy
- Food and Drink Policy
- Food Safety Management

Policy approved and adopted: July 2019

Signed on behalf of ACE Nursery School: *Lisa Tuohy*

Position: Headteacher

Due for review: Summer term 2020