

Green Policy



We at Avenue Nursery and Forest school strongly believe in being more '*green*' to help protect and save the planet, as well as all the plants, trees and animals. To try and become more eco-friendly we have implemented the following policies or practices, throughout the Toddler Room, the Main Nursery room and at Forest School:

- **Re-use rain water for water play and for watering our plants** – this helps reduce wasting water as well as providing nutrients for the plants/flowers to help them grow, which in turn provides nature with a home and positively effecting the food chain. More bugs, more insect, more birds etc.
- **Growing our own Fruit and Veg'** – We grow our own Fruit and Vegetables in the nursery garden as well as in our community allotment plot. We do this to help reduces our food waste, to reduce our cost at supermarkets, as well as to encourage the children to experiment with, try, taste and play with healthy foods.
- **Recycle as much as possible** – Inside the Nursery School and the Toddler cabin, we reuse cardboard boxes, plastics and tins for junk modelling and arts and crafts. We also recycle our recyclable kitchen waste (card, tin, plastics and glass) to reduce the amount of total waste produced; meaning less waste goes to landfills. We are also going to add a recycling station at all 3 settings to encourage children to recycle from an early age.
- **No Glitter, Bath Slime, releasing balloons or lanterns or other substances harmful to the environment outside** – we have banned glitter and 'Bath slime' and other substances which can seriously harm nature and the environment. Instead of glitter we will use Catkins (Forest School Glitter), Natural Resources (Cut up/hole punched Leaves) and biodegradable products. Cornflower and water will be used instead of 'Bath slime' as it is much less harmful to the environment.
- **Encouraging Staff and Parents to walk whenever possible** – to reduce the amount of traffic, pollution and emissions, as well as to reduce the risk of accidents, we encourage both the staff and the children and parents to walk to school.
- **Develop an understanding of the importance of nature and why we all need nature** – at Avenue Nursery and Forest School we strongly believe in being more '*green*' to help protect and save the planet, as well as all the plants, trees and animals. So through these 'Green' policies, practices as well as the staff's role modelled behaviour the children will develop an interest, an understanding and develop compassion and empathy towards nature and the environment.
- **We encourage the children to play with wooden/natural open ended toys** – we encourage the children to play with wooden toys to reduce the amount of plastics in the setting. This means there is less plastics being produced and therefore less plastic waste (packaging etc.) harming the environment.

- **Litter picker trips** – From January 2022 we are planning on litter picking trips. Going to the park, beach etc to help pick up and remove litter to help environment and nature.
- **Biodegradable products** – Within the nursery school wherever possible, biodegradable products will be used. For example, cotton wool instead of wet wipes, shredded paper instead of glitter, biodegradable nappies etc. All of this will help the environment because they'll produce less waste as they decompose.
- **Members of local nature clubs** – We are currently members of a few local and national clubs. Clubs such as Save Kents Green Spaces, Kent Wildlife Trust, The Woodland Trust and Wildwood etc. which we are all members of, actively helping the environment through our continued support. Save Kents Green Spaces is a trying to keep the 'green spaces' of Kent untouched so animals and people can enjoy our local environments and to stop the building developments which continue to destroy these areas for more and more houses. We will be looking at how we can support local campaigners to keep Kent green. Kent Wildlife Trust and the Woodland Trust provide us with lots of resources, activities and stickers etc. which encourages the children to interact with and have an interest around nature and the environment. Similarly, through our continued membership payment the trusts can continue to support the local environment.
- **Recycling shop** – We are planning on opening a 'Recycling Shop' where parents and children can swap their own toys, clothes, wellies, books etc. This will help us recycle as well as reduce the amount of waste going to landfills.
- **Vegetarianism** – Avenue Nursery and Forest School is a completely vegetarian nursery school, all of our meat is 'Quorn' or plant based. This helps the planet because compared to traditional farming, Quorn/plant based meat reduces the amount of CO₂ and Methane produced which affects the O-Zone layer, contributing to climate change and global warming.