

## Environment and Sustainability

We wish to support children to learn about sustainable practices and foster respect and care for the living and non-living environment. We want children to develop positive attitudes and values about sustainable practices by exploring solutions to environmental issues, learning about the world around them and how to protect it and watching adults role model sustainable practices.

Our sustainability leads are: **Maddie Shambrook, Antoinette Wilson, Claire Armstrong and Jennie Riggs.**

The 4 key pillars that represent aspects of addressing climate change to foster a sustainable future are:

- Decarbonisation
- Biodiversity
- Climate education and green careers goals
- Resilience and adaptation

**Decarbonisation:** Our activities to reduce plastic use; our activities to reduce utility usage; encouraging sustainable transport to and from the provision.

**Biodiversity:** Fostering children's empathy with nature through exploration, engaging with flora and fauna in the setting and outings to the forest school.

**Climate education:** Sharing books, stories and songs with the children on nature and the environment; weaving environment and climate topics into the EYFS areas of learning; encouraging parents to engage with sustainability topics at home.

**Resilience and adaption:** Reviewing all aspects of our setting's environment to assess what sustainability and climate adaptations can be made.

At Melbourn Playgroup and Out of School Club we are committed to protecting our planet for the next generations to the best of our ability by:

- Cutting down on waste by reducing, reusing and recycling (the 3Rs).
- Minimising food waste.

- Developing children's early awareness of the natural world through hands-on, age-appropriate experiences.
- Changing perspectives and developing understanding in ourselves, our families and our children.
- Develop children's awareness of energy use, recycling, and sustainable practices through age-appropriate activities.

**References:**

**The Department for Education's Sustainability and climate change strategy:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainability-and-climate-change-strategy/sustainability-and-climate-change-a-strategy-for-the-education-and-childrens-services-systems>