**Environmental Policy**

Energy

Electricity - The nursery uses very little electricity as there is no mains connection. All lights are rechargeable LED lamps or desk lights. These can be charged from a battery pack in the office or from the charging station at the nursery drop off point.

Gas - Gas is used to heat hot water for hand washing and cooking and to heat the small office.

Wood Fuel

This is used for all cooking with wood harvested from the local woodland and split by hand on site to be stacked for use in the campfire. Kindling is scavenged from the forest floor.

Water

Water use is minimal as there is no direct mains connection. Containers are filled from the mains and brought onto site for hand washing, cooking, dishes and drinking. Children are taught to conserve water during hand washing by turning the tap off while they lather their hands. Fresh water is recycled by watering the plants.

Recycling

Paper is collected for fire lighting or art activities.

All locally collected plastics and cans are washed and collected for recycling. Tin cans are often upcycled in creative projects.

Buying

Refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle.

Before purchases are made we question whether it is really necessary. For example a request for bought cut flowers for a science experiment in winter could be met by using local snowdrops or by agreeing that the experiment can be done in the summer when local ones are available. Before bringing plastic items on site consider REFUSING them and finding an alternative, for example plastic paint brushes could be swapped for wooden ones or the children could play with making their own on site using different materials. A general policy of buying high quality once rather than poor quality is also followed.

Suppliers

Highland Wholefoods - wholesale food and eco cleaning products

Tesco - daily fresh produce

Viking direct - Office supplies, gloves, PPE

Muddy Puddles - children’s outdoor clothing - recycled options available.

Food

Effort is made to only purchase fruit and vegetables from the UK or Europe, with for instance Spanish raspberries being chosen over Moroccan strawberries. Organic items are bought as often as possible when the budget allows.

Menus are planned seasonally with options like soup being adapted to use whatever is fresh, seasonal and local. Children are taught how food grows and we grow food in our own raised bed

and polytunnel bed. We follow a vegetarian diet as this is more environmentally compatible with the nursery ethos and also much safer in terms of contamination.

Transport

Currently all parents drive or lift share.

We are hoping to purchase a minibus in the future to allow us to provide transport.

Environment

We are always working to repair and improve our surroundings by

Picking up litter and keeping the place tidy

Building new garden areas and tending existing beds

Repairing aspects of the nursery and maintaining equipment

Looking after what tools and resources we have, to show respect for resources and save on future spending.

Date reviewed 21/11/22

Signed 21/11/22