



Environmental Policy

(09/26)

1. Statement of Commitment

At Castle Farm Countryside Classroom, we recognise that our natural environment is central to our ethos, curriculum and daily practice. As a countryside-based alternative provision, we have both a responsibility and a unique opportunity to model environmental stewardship, sustainable living and respect for the natural world.

We are committed to reducing our environmental impact, promoting sustainable practices, and embedding environmental education within our provision so that all young people develop knowledge, responsibility and care for the world around them.

2. Aims

We aim to:

- Promote respect for nature and biodiversity across all aspects of provision.
- Minimise waste and reduce our environmental footprint
- Use natural resources responsibly
- Embed sustainability within teaching, learning and daily routines
- Encourage students to develop lifelong environmentally responsible behaviours
- Maintain a safe, clean and environmentally conscious site.

3. Curriculum and Learning

Environmental awareness is woven throughout our practical and experiential curriculum. Through activities such as bushcraft, land management, animal care, food growing and outdoor learning, students are supported to:

- Understand ecosystems and local habitats.
- Learn about conservation and biodiversity
- Develop sustainable land-use practices
- Explore climate awareness in age-appropriate ways
- Practise care and responsibility for animals and the natural environment.
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Students are encouraged to reflect on how their actions impact the environment and to take ownership of maintaining the land respectfully.

4. Waste Reduction and Recycling

We are committed to reducing waste wherever possible. We will:

- Reuse and repurpose materials in creative and practical activities.
- Recycle paper, plastics and other materials where facilities allow
- Reduce single-use plastics
- Compost suitable organic waste where appropriate
- Purchase durable, repairable equipment in preference to disposable items.
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Students are actively involved in waste management routines to build awareness and responsibility.

5. Energy and Resource Use

We will aim to:

- Reduce unnecessary electricity and water consumption.
- Turn off lights and equipment when not in use
- Use energy-efficient appliances where possible
- Monitor heating and water usage responsibly
- Source materials locally and sustainably where practical

6. Biodiversity and Land Management

Given the rural nature of our setting, we place particular emphasis on protecting and enhancing biodiversity. We will:

- Protect existing habitats and wildlife.
- Avoid harmful chemicals wherever possible
- Promote native planting and habitat development
- Manage land responsibly and sustainably

7. Procurement

Where possible, we will:

- Source sustainable, ethically produced goods.
- Support local suppliers
- Consider environmental impact when purchasing resources
- Avoid unnecessary packaging

8. Community and Partnerships

We aim to foster environmental responsibility within our wider community by:

- Modelling sustainable practices for families and visiting professionals
- Engaging with local environmental initiatives where appropriate including litter picking in the local area with students and donating grown produce to the community.
- Encouraging students to transfer sustainable habits into home life.

9. Roles and Responsibilities

Directors and Leadership Team

- Ensure environmental considerations are embedded in strategic planning.
- Monitor implementation of this policy

Staff

- Model environmentally responsible behaviour.
- Integrate sustainability into learning activities
- Supervise and support students in safe environmental practice.

Students

- Take responsibility for maintaining the environment respectfully.
- Participate in sustainable routines and land care.
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10. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the leadership team to ensure it remains relevant, practical and aligned with our values and legal responsibilities.

Conclusion

Castle Farm Countryside Classroom recognises that environmental education is not a standalone subject, but a lived experience. By nurturing respect for nature, modelling sustainable practice and embedding environmental responsibility into everyday learning, we aim to equip young people with the values, skills and awareness needed to care for the world around them — now and in the future.