



## Environmental and Social Responsibility Policy

**Clowns Nursery is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.**

At Clowns we recognise that we have a responsibility toward our environment as our existence, as a nursery, is not solitary. We are part of a bigger system of people, values, other organisations and nature, and accept that we have a social and environmental responsibility, as an organisation/business, to give back to the world just as it gives to us.

We are committed to promoting human rights, helping our local community and protecting our natural environment. We also believe it is important to provide the children in our care with the opportunity to develop an age-appropriate awareness of these responsibilities to encourage them to become proactive and caring members of their local community and the world as a whole.

### **Environmental Responsibility**

As a nursery we already show our environmental responsibility in the following ways:

- as a **pescearian** nursery so have no meat consumption due to carbon emissions.
- encouraging children to **recycle and reuse** within the classroom.
- We have put up signs to impress upon parents the importance of **no idling** in their cars
- **Composting** - we have purchased a composter for our garden in which the children can put
  - only fruit and veg (no bread / dairy allowed as they encourage pests)
  - a small mix of brown and white paper in with the compost
- **Using the compost** for planting fruit and vegetables in the planters in the playground and by the entrance.
- **Spending time out in nature** and appreciating the outdoors, whatever the weather.
- Photocopy jobs will be set to **print in black and white** as default.
- Print jobs on the printers will be set to clear at 7pm every night, minimising unnecessary printing the next day.
- **Emails will print double sided** and in black and white as a default setting – reducing paper usage.

As a nursery we have also identified additional environmentally focused initiatives we would like to continue to work toward **work towards** implementing. These are:

- **ban single-use plastics** as much as possible.
- **recycle** more proactively and encourage the children to begin to do so as a daily practice within the classrooms.
- Promote an **annual ‘Walk to Clowns Week’** to coincide with “Walk to School Week” to encourage walking and using public transport
- **Educate the children** in looking after the environment by:
  - Looking into Early Years initiatives for the environment
- **Reusing materials**
  - Repurposing and reusing materials for craft projects, storage, etc
- **Saving energy**
  - ‘green’ energy suppliers
  - being more energy efficient within the nursery.
- Try to use suppliers that don’t over-package.

The Environmental and Social Responsibility Officer will endeavour to visit the children in the classes and encourage them to adopt a new practice each month, building up their positive impact on the environment. For example, turning off the lights when they leave a room. Each class will have a different text, encouraging the children to continue the practice and educate them as they move up through the nursery. The texts are as follows:

- Why Should I Recycle? by Jen Green (Why Should I? books)
- Michael Recycle by Ellie Bethel
- Harry Saves The Ocean by N.G.K
- I Can Save The Earth! By Alison Inches
- Charlie and Lola: Look After Your Planet by Lauren Child
- Ten Things I Can Do To Help My World by Melanie Walsh
- George Saves the World By Lunchtime by Dr Jo Readman

The classrooms will also be able to use any of the above texts for their classes, as they deem appropriate.

### **Social Responsibility**

At Clowns we also believe it is important to be actively responsible members of our local community and show our social responsibility in the following ways:

- **Diversity**
  - We have multicultural and language resources and make sure we reflect and acknowledge the different languages of children who speak English as an Additional Language in our nursery environment. We have a diverse and multicultural staff.
  - We have an annual International Day where we celebrate the diversity of the staff, children and parents within our nursery.
  - We embrace the Cultural Capital that our children and staff bring with them, and we celebrate children's way of life regardless of religion/race/culture. We understand that each child comes with their own experiences and cultural capital which only serves to enrich their (and our) experiences.
- **Ongoing professional development for staff**
  - Well-being
  - Growth Mindset
- **Charitable endeavours throughout the year.** We have:
  - Cake sales
  - Sponsorship week
  - Donated to food banks
  - Engaged in Harvest festival
  - Donated our old furniture to local hospices, churches and other individuals
- **Giving and kindness are a part of Clowns' philosophy**
  - Growth mindset
  - British values

As a nursery we have also identified additional socially focused initiatives we would like to **work towards** implementing. These are:

- **Exercise:** monthly 'Walk to Clowns Day' to encourage walking and using public transport.
- **Diversifying the charities, we support throughout the year**
  - non-denominational
  - 1 local
  - 1 global

- 1 environmental
- 1 social

**How are we ACTIVELY working to implement this policy within the nursery?**

***Environmental:***

- Make sure there are recycling bags available in all the classrooms.
- Create a “lost toys repair shop/basket” where the children and staff can put toys or pieces they find around the nursery. This will minimise loss and create a central place for lost items.
- Making our own resources to minimise packaging
  - play dough – minimise plastic tubs.
- Rinse, recycle, reduce, reuse!
  - Milk bottles (which must be squashed down and tops taken off).
  - Junk modelling in the classrooms
- Grow your own vegetables/ herbs - Summer Term.
- Composting
- Have ‘no idling’ signs outside the nursery
- Walk to school week

***Social:***

- Giving and kindness are a part of our ethos: *“All our children learn to show respect for each other and for those around them”*.
- Planned fundraising events – cake sales, sponsorship week, parties, dress up days
- Value and promote the diversity within the nursery – International Day, festivals, books, music etc.
- Encouraging staff to minimise use of single use plastics.

*Reviewed August 2024*