11.2 Sustainable Practice

At **Ridgemount Cottage Nursery School** we value our environment. In order to help keep our planet safe and healthy for our children we closely monitor the management of our waste and its disposal, in accordance with local authority requirements.

Staff members are made aware of the need to minimise energy waste and the setting uses appropriate measures to save energy including:

* Energy saving light bulbs indoors
* Turning off lights when not in use
* Not leaving any equipment on standby
* Unplugging all equipment at the end of its use/the day
* Recycling paper and packaging
* Giving consideration to food waste

The setting recycles paper waste at paper banks and ensures that where possible other sources of waste are recycled to reduce the effect on the environment.

We assess our setting’s impact on the environment on a regular basis and put procedures in place to counteract this impact.

Where age/stage appropriate, we help children to understand the importance of sustainable lifestyles including how to be healthy as well as recycling, energy saving etc.

In order to encourage children not to waste food, or to play with food at mealtimes, we discourage use of food as a play material; instead we encourage activities which involve preparing and tasting different types of food.

This policy is reviewed annually and is carefully considered in the best interests of the children, the setting and the environment.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **This policy was adopted on** | **Signed on behalf of the setting** | **Date for review** |
| *1 December 2021* | *Amanda Kemp* | *1.12.2022* |