



Cornerstone Nurseries Sustainability, Community & Green Mission Strategy

Introduction

At Cornerstone Nurseries, we are committed to nurturing not only the children in our care but also the communities and environment in which they live. Our sustainability and green mission is rooted in a genuine desire to create an eco-conscious, socially responsible and inclusive environment that supports the wellbeing of children, families, staff and the wider community.

We believe sustainability extends beyond environmental responsibility. It encompasses social value, community engagement, supporting local businesses, volunteering, inclusion and creating opportunities for future generations to thrive.

We strive to lead by example, fostering a culture of responsibility, respect, kindness and sustainability in everything we do.

As active members of Better Business for Good (BBFG) and certified as 'Doing Business Better' in Basingstoke, we actively seek opportunities to reduce our environmental footprint whilst strengthening our local community and supporting sustainable economic growth.

Achievements and Recognition

- Active member of Better Business for Good (BBFG).
- Certified as 'Doing Business Better' in Basingstoke.
- Recipient of the Silver Tree Award in recognition of tree planting and biodiversity work.
- Active participation in local sustainability and community challenges.
- We have 1 trained level 3 forest school leader (Eliza Holloway)
- We are now working with local groups and inclusion colleges to support getting young people into work placements.

Objectives

1. Reduce waste through recycling, re-use and composting.
2. Prioritise local suppliers and sustainable procurement.
3. Use eco-friendly and natural learning resources.

4. Educate and engage children, staff and families in sustainability.
5. Promote diversity, equity, inclusion and social responsibility.
6. Increase community engagement and volunteering opportunities.
7. Support families through sustainable initiatives and cost-of-living support.
8. Encourage literacy and social value through the 'Hop into Reading' initiative.
9. Develop outdoor learning, biodiversity and environmental stewardship.

Key Components and Actions

Recycling and Composting

- Maintain clear recycling stations across both settings.
- Continue food waste recycling, confidential shredding and appropriate disposal of hazardous waste.
- Involve children in composting activities and understanding food waste.
- Provide information for families regarding recycling soft plastics, batteries, printer and water cartridges and other difficult-to-recycle items.

Local Supplier Engagement and Sustainable Procurement

- Prioritise Basingstoke-based suppliers wherever possible.
- Maintain active involvement in BBFG initiatives and sustainability challenges.
- Work collaboratively with local businesses to share good practice and create social value.

Eco-friendly Learning Resources

- Continue to prioritise natural, recycled, second-hand and sustainably sourced resources.
- Maintain donation stations for loose parts and modelling resources.
- Encourage creative re-use and upcycling activities.

4. Sustainability Education and Family Engagement

- Integrate environmental awareness into daily activities including gardening, nature walks and recycling projects.
- Develop a dedicated green page on the nursery website to provide families with sustainability information and ideas.
- Engage families in sustainability challenges and home-based environmental activities.
- Our employees are asked to each complete DEI training and a course called “Think Green” which is designed towards sustainability in the Early Years sector.

Community Support and Engagement

- Continue community swap shops and sharing initiatives.

- Attend local networking and community events.
- Encourage staff, parents and local businesses to volunteer within community projects.

Hop into Reading Community Action Group

- Lead the 'Hop into Reading' initiative to inspire a love of reading and books in future generations
- Work with local schools, businesses and volunteers to support children's reading.
- Maintain community book baskets in local cafés and businesses.
- Operate a community book swap shed in the grassed area of the nursery car park, possibly extend out to more areas of the community if this does well.
- Collect and redistribute donated books and resources via our “Book packs” and promote these to the local community using our “Hop into reading facebook page”.
- Attend community events with our frog mascot 'Hop' to promote literacy and community engagement.
- Continue volunteer reading support within local infant schools and look at how we can extend this to promote and encourage other volunteers and local businesses to do the same.



Biodiversity and Outdoor Learning

- Continue planting projects, growing activities and wildlife-friendly gardening.
- Collect rainwater for gardening activities.
- Build upon achievements recognised through the Silver Tree Award and aim for the gold and platinum awards in future challenges.
- Develop Forest School and outdoor learning opportunities. Look to match the offering at Miss Muffet to Priestley Road.

Inclusion, Equity and Wellbeing

- Ensure all activities reflect Cornerstone's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Continue neurodiversity awareness and inclusion training.
- Continue to work with local groups and inclusion colleges to further create volunteering and work experience opportunities for diverse groups.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Conduct bi-annual sustainability audits.
- Attend quarterly BBFG updates
- Sustainability lead Cheryl Standing to attend “People Planet Pint” meetings regularly (PPP).
- Gather feedback from staff, families, children and community partners.
- Monitor waste reduction, recycling rates and sustainable purchasing.
- Review participation in community initiatives and volunteering projects.
- Set annual sustainability goals and review progress regularly through this document and sharing with stakeholders.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Cornerstone Nurseries recognises its role in supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through our environmental, educational and community initiatives, we actively contribute towards Goals 1, 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 and 17, helping to create a more sustainable future for children, families and the wider community.

The **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** are a set of 17 global goals designed to create a more sustainable, fair and prosperous world by 2030.

The official overview can be found here:

[United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#)

For Cornerstone Nurseries, several of the goals align particularly well with the work we are already doing:

SDG	Goal	How Cornerstone contributes
Goal 1	No Poverty	Through swap shops for clothes, toys and books and working to assist with the cost of living crisis of our families attending.
Goal 3	Good Health and Well-being	Promoting children's wellbeing, outdoor learning and healthy lifestyles.
Goal 4	Quality Education	Early years education, Forest School, and the <i>Hop into Reading</i> initiative.
Goal 5	Gender Equality	Inclusive practices and equal opportunities for all children and staff.
Goal 8	Decent work and economic growth	Through offering work experience opportunities and assisting people in “getting into work” through partnerships with local groups and colleges.
Goal 10	Reduced Inequalities	Supporting neurodiversity, inclusion, swap shops and community support initiatives.

Goal 11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	Working with local businesses, BBFG, community projects and volunteering.
Goal 12	Responsible Consumption and Production	Recycling, re-use, composting, second-hand resources and local sourcing.
Goal 13	Climate Action	Reducing environmental impact, sustainability education and participation in green challenges.
Goal 15	Life on Land	Tree planting, gardening, biodiversity projects and our Silver Tree Award work.
Goal 17	Partnerships for the Goals	Collaboration with schools, businesses, charities and community organisations.

Conclusion

Cornerstone Nurseries' Sustainability, Community and Green Mission is more than a statement. It is embedded within our culture and everyday practice.

By working collaboratively with children, families, staff, local businesses and the wider community in which our business operates. We aim to create lasting environmental and social impact and inspire future generations to care for both people and the planet.