GEMS TINEY HOME NURSERY

HOME FROM HOME CHILDCARE

Environment and Sustainability Policy

Purpose

At Gems tiney Home Nursery we help children enjoy nature and learn to care for the world through play and everyday habits. We use resources thoughtfully while keeping children's health, safety, inclusion and comfort at the centre of decisions.

Learning about the world

Gardening, observing wildlife, walks, stories and creative play help children notice seasons, growth and the needs of living things. Adults model gentle handling, respect for habitats and care for shared places. Experiences are practical, positive and appropriate to children's understanding.

Children are encouraged to make manageable choices, such as using both sides of paper or watering plants carefully. We avoid frightening messages or making children feel responsible for solving environmental problems. Resources and activities reflect different family circumstances without judging what families buy or use.

Reducing waste and choosing resources

We favour durable, repairable and reusable resources where safe and practical. Before buying or accepting donations, we consider suitability, condition, cleaning requirements, storage and likely use. Damaged items are removed from children's use until safely repaired or disposed of.

Reused craft materials are checked for sharp edges, loose parts, choking hazards, contamination and allergy risks. We do not reuse medicine or chemical containers for play or food. Glass, staples, batteries, magnets and other hazardous materials are kept

away from young children unless a specifically assessed activity can be safely supervised.

Clean, suitable recycling materials may be used in activities. Children access only safe sorting resources, not general waste bins. Hazardous waste, broken glass, used batteries, medicines and confidential papers are handled and disposed of by adults through appropriate routes.

Food and drink

We plan meals and portions to reduce waste while ensuring children have enough nutritious food and access to suitable drinks. Fresh and seasonal ingredients and local purchasing are considered where practical, alongside affordability, dietary needs and food safety.

Children can help with suitable food-growing and preparation activities under supervision. We follow allergy, choking prevention and food hygiene procedures. Reusable cups, plates and utensils are cleaned properly and never shared between children before washing.

Energy water and hygiene

Adults model turning off unnecessary lights and taps and using heating and appliances efficiently. Children practise age-appropriate habits with adult support. We maintain safe temperatures, lighting, ventilation, handwashing and essential equipment. Energy saving must not compromise care or safety.

We use cleaning products suitable for their intended purpose and follow dilution, contact time, storage and disposal instructions. An eco-friendly label does not replace effective cleaning or disinfection. Products remain secure and out of children's reach. Necessary protective equipment and single-use items are used whenever hygiene, infection control or individual care requires them.

Outdoor learning and travel

We provide daily outdoor opportunities unless circumstances make this inappropriate. Gardening and nature play are risk assessed for plants, soil, water, tools, animals, weather and individual needs. Children wash their hands after handling soil or animals and before eating. Unknown plants and fungi are not eaten.

We consider walking and local outings where routes, staffing and children's needs allow. Transport choices must meet supervision, safe travel and accessibility requirements. We change activities when weather or unsuitable clothing makes them unsafe and no suitable spares are available, protecting children and staff.

Working with families and assistants

We share practical ideas and invite suggestions through discussions and the tiney app. Families may offer suitable reusable materials by agreement; contributions are optional. We do not expect families to buy particular products or supply materials to participate.

Gemma ensures assistants understand safe reuse, waste disposal and hygiene arrangements. Children's interests and family feedback guide activities, with relevant learning included in planning and professional development.

Review and related guidance

Gemma reviews purchasing, waste and resource use to identify realistic improvements. This policy is reviewed annually or sooner after a relevant change or incident. It should be read with our hygiene, food, risk assessment, outings and adverse weather policies. Reference: Department for Education, EYFS statutory framework for childminders effective September 2026, including understanding the world and safe premises.

Policy owner: Gemma Bayley
Reviewed: November 2026
Next review due: November 2027