



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Fusion Childcare Services is committed to the protection of the environment through reducing pollution, emissions, and waste.

As part of the induction process, and through staff meetings and training, our staff will be informed about reducing the use of raw materials, supplies and energy. We raise the children's awareness of environmental issues through discussions, projects, and day to day activities whilst at Fusion.

Children and staff follow Fusion's 'Eco Code':

- We re-use and recycle our waste material and the recycling bins are easily accessible to staff/ children.
- We switch off lights when not in use.
- We turn off electrical equipment at the power source when not in use.
- We turn off taps after use and do not waste water.
- We do not drop litter and do litter picks.
- We plan our outings to minimise vehicle use and use public transport whenever possible.

Fusion is proud to have an Eco Club run by some of the Junior children for any year group. Children plan Eco friendly activities and quizzes.

We have an allotment close to the School so we learn about growing food and looking after the environment, recycling and working together as a community

Dangerous Plants: Fusion recognises that many plants are poisonous if eaten or capable of causing allergic reactions if handled. Accordingly, no plants on the list of the dangerous plants shown below are allowed on the premises without first conducting a Risk assessment to review the degree of risk posed to the children.

The outside play area at Fusion has also been checked for the Dangerous Plants listed below. Where a potentially dangerous plant exists and we are unable to remove it, we have conducted a risk assessment considering the following:

- The ages and maturity of the children
- The degree of supervision required
- Whether we need to restrict access to affected areas
- How children with allergies might be affected.

The following is a list of the most commonly found plants that staff should be aware of as posing a possible hazard. Note that this list is not fully comprehensive.

Key: E = Harmful if eaten, T = Harmful if touched

Indoor Plants		
Common Name	Latin Name	E or T
Angels' Trumpets	Brugmansia or Datura	E
German Primula	Primula Obconica	T
Lantana	Lantana	E/T
Leopard Lily	Dieffenbachia	E/T
Oleander	Nerium Oleander	E
Rosy Periwinkle	Catharanthus Roseus	E
Umbrella Tree	Schefflera	T
Bulbs eg Daffodils & Hyacinths	Narcissus and Hyacinthus	E/T
Cut flowers eg Daffodils, Monkshood, Mistletoe	Narcissus, Aconitum, Viscum Album	E/T
Garden plants		
Autumn Crocus	Colchicum Autumnale	E
Castor Oil Plant	Ricinus Communis	E/T
Foxglove	Digitalis Purpurea	E
Freemontodendron	Freemontodendron	T
Ivy	Hedera Helix	E/T
Laburnum	Laburnum Anagyroides	E
Leyland Cypress	X Cupressocyparis	T
Lily-of-the-Valley	Convallaria Majalis	E
Lupins	Lupinus	E
Mezereon	Daphne Mezereum	E/T
Monkshood	Aconitum Napellus	E/T
Pokeweed	Phytolacca	E/T
Rue	Ruta Graveolens	T
Spurge	Euphorbia	E/T
Yew	Taxus Baccata	E
Wild and native plants		
Black Bryony	Tamus Communis	E
Black Nightshade	Solanum Nigrum	E
Cherry Laurel	Prunus Laurocerasus	E
Deadly Nightshade	Atropa Belladonna	E
Giant Hogweed	Heracleum Mantegazzianum	E
Hemlock	Conium Maculatum	E
Hemlock Water Dropwort	Oenanthe Crocata	E
Horse Chestnut	Aesculus Hippocastanum	E
Lords-and-Ladies	Arum Maculatum	E
Mistletoe	Viscum Album	E
Snowberry	Symphoricarpos Albus	E
Wild Privet	Ligustrum Vulgare	E
Woody Nightshade	Solanum Dulcamara	E

Procedure to Follow if a Child Consumes or Comes into Contact with a Dangerous Plant

If a child is suspected to have eaten, chewed, swallowed, or had significant contact with a potentially poisonous plant, staff must act immediately and follow these procedures:

1. Stay calm and ensure the child's safety.

- Remove any remaining plant material from the child's mouth or skin if it is safe to do so. No blind sweeping.
- Prevent the child from eating or touching any more of the plant.

2. Assess the child.

- Check if the child is conscious and breathing normally.
- Look for signs of poisoning or an allergic reaction, including:
 - Difficulty breathing or swallowing
 - Swelling of the lips, tongue or throat
 - Excessive drooling
 - Vomiting or nausea
 - Drowsiness or confusion
 - Seizures
 - Rash or skin irritation

3. Seek immediate medical advice.

- Contact the National Poisons Information Service (via NHS 111) or follow current NHS guidance for suspected plant poisoning.
- If the child is unconscious, having difficulty breathing, having a seizure, or showing signs of a severe allergic reaction, call 999 immediately and request an ambulance.

4. Provide information.

- If possible, identify the plant involved.
- Keep a sample of the plant and take a photograph, to assist medical professionals.
- Inform emergency services or NHS 111:
 - The child's age.

- The name or description of the plant.
- The amount believed to have been consumed or touched.
- The time of the incident.
- Any symptoms observed.

5. Do not:

- Induce vomiting unless instructed by a medical professional.
- Give food or drink unless advised by healthcare professionals.
- Delay seeking medical advice while attempting to identify the plant if the child is becoming unwell.

6. Inform parents/carers.

- Contact the child's parent or emergency contact immediately.
- Explain the situation, actions taken, and where the child will be taken if emergency treatment is required.

7. Record the incident.

- Complete the accident/incident report as soon as possible.

8. Review and prevent recurrence.

- Remove or isolate the plant if appropriate.
- Review the risk assessment.
- Consider whether additional supervision, staff training, or environmental changes are required.
- Report the incident in line with Fusion's safeguarding, health and safety, and reporting procedures, including notification to relevant authorities where required.

Staff Responsibilities: All staff must remain vigilant during indoor and outdoor activities, supervise children appropriately, discourage children from picking or eating plants, and report any concerns about potentially hazardous vegetation to the Manager immediately. Regular environmental checks will be carried out to ensure the premises remain as safe as reasonably practicable.

Waste Management: Fusion, in compliance with the Simplified Recycling regulations (The Separation of Waste (England) Regulations 2025), all schools and settings must adopt standardised waste separation practices. These rules aim to improve recycling rates, reduce landfill use, and support net-zero objectives. As we rent the premises the School hold the contract for recycling and waste separation, which we adhere to.

Fusion aims to:

1. **Separate Waste Streams**

- **Food waste** must be collected separately (e.g., fruit and vegetable peelings, egg shells, tea bags) — it will not go in general or mixed bins
- **Dry recyclables** (glass, metal, plastic, paper, cardboard) may be collected together in a single bin designed for mixed dry recycling. We follow the schools recycling system.
- **Residual waste** refers to non-recyclable, general rubbish.

2. **Minimum Bins Required**

A minimum of **three separate containers** must be available:

- Food waste
- Dry recyclables
- Residual waste/regulations-compliant general waste

Sustainability: At Fusion, the environment is special to us. We have an allotment to support the children in learning about how and where food comes from, looking after the allotment, looking at seasons and also a place to support our wellbeing. [Abigail Wilkins](#) and [Mrs Akers/Mrs Quium](#) are our Sustainability Lead, aligning with the Department for Education's (DfE) directive that all education settings designate a sustainability lead and establish a Climate Action Plan by 2025. Fusion has a deep commitment to environmental stewardship and is dedicated to embedding sustainable practices throughout our setting. At Fusion we teach children and try reduce our environmental impact, such as enhancing recycling programs, promoting energy efficiency, and integrating sustainability into our setting. Both Abigail and Mrs Akers/Mrs Quium will liaise with the Schools to ensure we are working together and explore ways that we can work together to contribute, support and align with the plans.

We support children to learn and take action:

- Utilise our allotment
- Portion control for food.
- Growing herbs/plants/ food at our allotment
- Use natural and repurposed materials for arts/crafts where possible.
- Go for nature walks and talk about the environment.
- [Look after the forest at Forest School.](#)
- Litter picks
- Talking about seasons, weather, animals and how we care for our world.

We at Fusion aim to foster a culture of environmental responsibility and empower our children to become proactive stewards of the planet.

Adopted on:	Last reviewed on:	Reviewed on:	Next review Date:
04.01.15	01.09.2025	01.04.2026	April 2027
<i>Written in accordance with the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2025): Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements: Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment [3.79-3.80]</i>			
Signed and approved:	Fusion Childcare Services		