Environment and Sustainability Policy

Woodventurers is a local alternative education provider in Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire. We run alternative provision programmes in a range of locations including woodlands and school sites. Children learn through interesting, enjoyable activities in woodland settings. We recognise that our activities can have an impact on the environment, most significantly in our woodland spaces.

This policy provides the guiding framework for a system to protect our environment and details actions we are taking. Working in the environmental education sector we also have a responsibility to demonstrate best practice to our learners and their families, schools and the wider educational community.

Our aims are:

- To educate our learners on sustainable practices.
- To protect the woodland spaces we use.
- To use natural resources in a sustainable way so as to protect them for future use.
- To enhance the spaces we use to futureproof use and diversify species.

We do this by:

Education:

- Tutors help learners identify flora and fauna around them, increasing their awareness and interest in ecology and nature. There are positive long term benefits for ecology due to increased awareness and passion for nature as interested and aware children are more likely to become adults who are active in preserving and managing woodlands in the future.

Woodland management:

- An ecological impact assessment is done annually, potential harm is identified, mitigation measures put in place and any changes made as advised.

- Tree management: Weekly checks are carried out and pre session checks to monitor for an immediate danger which is acted upon. eg.Hanging deadwood is removed.

- Our woodlands are monitored termly. Any dangerous trees or diseased are removed or demarcated and mitigating measures put in place to avoid injury.

- Non native/invasive/protected species: We monitor and remove any non native invasive species such as Rhododendron. Replanting of native species and preservation of any endangered or at risk species is a priority.

- Footfall: Paths are defined and kept maintained to reduce the amount of wear and tear to the natural environment.r. Woodlands are rested in school holiday times and paths/ routes are also rotated as appropriate.

- Fires: Wood fires are burned either in a fire bowl raised off the ground or in a specific area of the woodland site to limit the damage on soil ecology and invertebrates. Firewood collection is monitored to ensure we retain a balance between what we take and what we leave. When necessary we import firewood to lessen our impact.

- Habitats: We include piles of deadwood within the woodland to create habitats for fungi and invertebrates. We create new habitats to encourage birds and bats to visit the woods with bird and bat boxes. We ensure we don't use all areas of the woods with awareness of the fact that it is important to retain some wild areas.

- Foraging -Wood and plants: Natural resources need to be managed to ensure sustainability. Wood, plants, herbs and edible berries used directly from the woodland are taken only where there is abundance. These will be foraged on a 20%/80% basis - harvest 20%/ leave 80% and taught by tutors to learners.

- Drainage: Drainage ditches are installed to support water management and protect areas from flooding.

Energy

- Office lights and equipment are switched off when not required and heating controls accurately set.
- Wood and kindling used for woodland fires is sustainably resourced or is donated from individuals.

Waste

- Waste and litter is disposed of and/or recycled. We operate a 'leave no trace' policy and leave nothing behind in the woodland which may affect biodiversity including food and materials used for activities. Tutors/ employees are encouraged to recycle waste at home.
- We communicate, invoice, do our banking and store documents electronically.
- We print only where 100% necessary. Stationary and scrap paper are re-used

Travel

- When travelling to meetings we aim to car-share and coordinate meetings online to minimise the number of journeys required.
- Employees have the option to and are provided with the equipment to work from home.

Procurement

- We select products made from recycled materials, including paper,
- We aim to keep our carbon footprint low and advocate vegetarian food.

Review July 2028

Version Number	3	
Review Cycle	every two years	
Date of ratified policy	Oct 2026	Signed: *Toni Rogers 22.10.26* *Signed Nicki Proietti 22.10.26*
Date of Next Review	October 2028	
Related Policies	Environmental Impact Assessment Plan Risk Assessment policy Use of fires policy Use of tools policy Hygiene policy	
Other Relevant Documents	Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE): Annual update Working Together to Safeguard Children: July 2018 Education Child Protection Record Keeping Guidance Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education Settings: Oct 2015 Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999) The Children Act (2004)	