



*Where learning comes naturally*



# Growing Wild Ethos

To give children the time, space and freedom to play and learn naturally.







# Growing Wild Vision

To inspire and enable children to be healthy, happy and capable individuals who care for each other and their world (now and in the future).

# Growing Wild Values

- wellbeing
- family
- community
- sustainability





**Wellbeing** - The growing Wild Curriculum acknowledges that children learn best when they are happy, secure and actively involved in their own learning. We understand that every child is unique and our curriculum starts with the needs and interests of each child.

**Family** - The children's wellbeing is paramount and we work closely with parents to build partnerships between home and nursery to provide every child with the opportunity to thrive.

**Community** - also plays an important part in the curriculum and widening children's horizons, with regular visits to Wigfield Farm, Worsbrough Country Park and walks around the village.

**Sustainability** - We provide a curriculum which emerges from children's innate curiosities in the living world, and develops from the outdoor environment, the natural elements and ongoing seasonal changes.





# Growing Wild Curriculum

Creating a 'sustainability frame of mind'

- Our ethos, vision and values at Growing Wild support children's **relationships and interactions** in the **natural world**.
- By providing opportunities for children to interact with the living world, we can nurture certain **characteristics** that may create a **sustainability mindset** as the children grow.
- **Sustainability** can be seen as a way of thinking and being. It develops when children learn naturally, through their innate curiosities, about nature and the world around them. They start to care and share and understand. They develop problem solving skills and resilience.





We therefore believe that when children leave Growing Wild they will be unique little people with the following characteristics.



# Curiosity

in the world around them

# Creativity

to express themselves and find new ways of doing things

# Kindness

towards ourselves, each other and the living world







**A love of nature**  
and being outdoors

**A sense of adventure**  
to explore new places and try new  
things

**Resilience**  
and determination to keep trying



## **Why choose an outdoor nursery?**

At Growing Wild we believe that the natural outdoor environment is where children are happiest and learn best!

### **Physical development**

Children's bodies and brains are interconnected. They learn through physical experiences and by interacting with the environment using all of their senses and by using their whole bodies. Jumping, swinging, climbing and spinning make connections in the brain that are needed for future learning. The outdoors allows for 'big play' building strong bodies, arms, legs and hands which they need before being able to hold a pencil.

### **Personal, social and emotional development**

In mixed age play children watch others and are inspired to push their boundaries and challenge their own capabilities. The outdoors gives opportunities for large role play games involving many children. It gives them a sense of security and enables them to help others.





## Reading, writing and maths

Movement in the environment and everchanging focus helps stimulate the small muscles in the eyes which are later needed to track words on a page. Writing is dependent on good posture and upper arm control which is developed from large physical movements and good core strength. By moving in different ways and carrying big objects children learn about spatial and body awareness this is the foundation for later maths.



## Communication and language

The ever changing outdoor environment sparks words and conversations as children notice changes due to the weather and seasons. They have to tell us what their stick is using imagination and words.

## Wellbeing and mental health

Self-confidence grows when children challenge themselves and succeed. The outdoors provides endless opportunities to climb, balance, jump, and swing and at the same time to negotiate, think critically, and solve problems.

Being out in nature is scientifically proven to increase calm and happy feelings.





## A different perspective on school-readiness

The outdoors creates independent children who can dress and undress and be able to choose an activity and stay focussed. Following the child's interests gives them a love of learning as they become engaged in learning through play. The outdoors builds strong bodies which will help children in all areas of development and learning.



“For the child... it is not half so important to know as to feel. If facts are the seeds that later produce knowledge and wisdom, then the emotions and the impressions of the senses are the fertile soil in which the seeds must grow.”

— Rachel Carson

