

HNC Childhood Practice



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The world is currently facing many global challenges which can have local, national, and international impacts. These impacts can be grouped into what are commonly referred to as 'the three pillars of sustainability'.

One pillar represents environmental stewardship, reflecting the need for responsible and conscientious management of Earth's natural resources and for the protection of the environment.

Another pillar represents social sustainability, referring to the ability of a society to maintain and enhance the well-being and quality of life. This involves creating an equitable and just society that promotes social cohesion, protects human rights, and ensures that everyone has access to basic needs and opportunities.

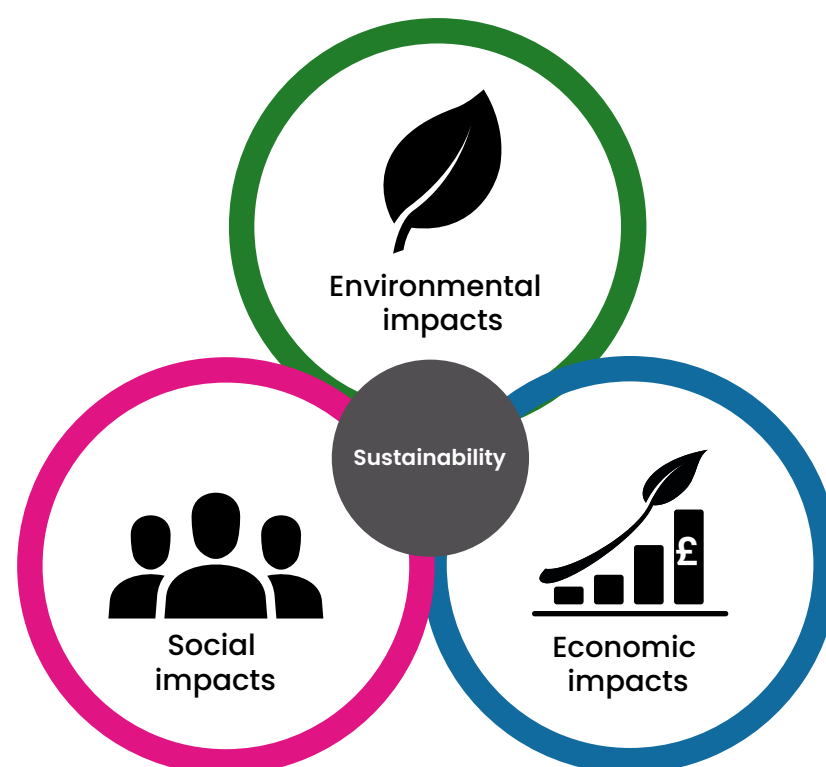
The final pillar represents economic sustainability, which involves balancing economic development with the preservation of natural resources, social well-being, and the needs of future generations.

All three pillars are of equal importance. Achieving sustainability requires collective action from individuals, businesses, governments, and organisations at local, national, and international levels. It involves making conscious choices and adopting practices that minimise negative impacts on the environment, promote social equity, and contribute to long-term economic sustainability.













To address global challenges and promote sustainability, the United Nations established the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), a shared blueprint for people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership. At its heart is a set of 17 goals ([Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs](#)), which aim to stimulate action by 2030 in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet. Behind each goal is a set of specific targets against which progress towards the individual goals can be monitored.

Integrating sustainability into childhood practice education can nurture a generation of environmentally conscious, responsible, and empathetic individuals. A foundation in sustainability at a young age will encourage children to carry these values into adulthood, influencing their decisions and actions in ways that contribute to a more sustainable world.

The infographic below displays some social, economic, and environmental impacts that may be associated with making childhood practice more sustainable and examples of sustainable development goals associated with these impacts.



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Driver	Primary impact	Secondary impact	Associated SDGs
 <p>Sustainability in childhood practice</p>	 <p>Sustainable learning environments</p>	<p>Eco-friendly classroom set up eg non-toxic paints; sustainable materials for furniture; energy efficient lighting and ventilation </p>	<p>7 – affordable and clean energy 9 – industry, innovation and infrastructure 12 – responsible consumption and production 13 – climate action 14 – life below water 15 – life on land</p>
		<p>Green spaces and outdoor learning areas </p>	<p>3 – good health and well-being 11 – sustainable cities and communities</p>
	 <p>Sustainable practices in daily routines</p>	<p>Reduce, reuse, recycle; and energy and water conservation </p>	<p>6 – clean water and sanitation 7 – affordable and clean energy 12 – responsible consumption and production 13 – climate action</p>
		<p>Simple economics eg giving, saving, spending </p>	<p>4 – quality education 8 – decent work and economic growth</p>
	 <p>Environmental education for young children</p>	<p>Nature-based learning; gardening and composting; weather and seasons </p>	<p>3 – affordable and clean energy 4 – quality education 13 – climate action 14 – life below water 15 – life on land</p>
		<p>Sustainability concepts eg recycling, water/energy conservation, wildlife protection </p>	<p>4 – industry, innovation and infrastructure 6 – responsible consumption and production 7 – affordable and clean energy 11 – sustainable cities and communities 12 – responsible consumption and production 13 – climate action 14 – life below water 15 – life on land</p>
		<p>Introduce sustainable topics through stories, visuals, and across subjects (eg maths, science, arts & crafts) </p>	<p>All relevant SDGs</p>
		<p>Promote sustainable nutrition and food awareness </p>	<p>1 – no poverty 2 – zero hunger 3 – good health and well-being</p>
		<p>Connect with local environment and community eg field trips, community projects </p>	<p>3 – good health and well-being 11 – sustainable cities and communities</p>
			<p>Overarching 16 – peace, justice and strong institutions 17 – partnerships for the goals</p>