



# Gold-Standard Improvement & Development Plan

2025 – 2028

## 1. Vision and Purpose

Wild Embers CIC is committed to setting the **gold standard in nature-based, trauma-informed alternative education** for children and young people with SEND and SEMH needs in South Devon.

Our vision is to create a replicable model of practice where **therapeutic outdoor learning, curriculum engagement, and mental-health recovery** sit side-by-side, producing measurable improvements in wellbeing, attendance, and long-term educational outcomes.

## 2. Current Strengths

- Highly qualified, trauma-informed, SEND-specialist team with reflective supervision.
- Evidence-based practice underpinned by psychological and ecological wellbeing frameworks.
- Established partnerships with schools, SEND teams, CAMHS, and community networks.
- Consistent feedback evidencing gains in confidence, regulation, and attendance.
- Award-winning approach to nature connection and mental health.
- Strong safeguarding culture and robust operational systems.



### 3. Strategic Priorities for Gold-Standard Development (2025–2028)

1. **Evidence & Evaluation:** Establish a formal outcomes framework with academic partners; publish annual impact report.
2. **Curriculum Excellence:** Develop an accredited **Nature-Based Curriculum** aligned to the national curriculum, ASDAN, and the Five Ways to Wellbeing.
3. **Research & Innovation:** Create a **Nature-Based Education Research Hub** to trial and share best practice regionally.
4. **Workforce Development:** Build a professional learning pathway (Level 3–5 facilitator training) with external accreditation.
5. **Safeguarding & Governance:** Achieve “Outstanding” internal audit standards across safeguarding, SEND, and health & safety.
6. **Digital Systems:** Implement integrated digital attendance, outcome-tracking, and evaluation dashboard.
7. **Partnership & Influence:** Host annual **Devon Nature-Based Education Summit** to share practice with commissioners and schools.
8. **Sustainability & Infrastructure:** Develop carbon-positive operations; expand accessible outdoor learning bases.

### 4. Improvement Action Plan

Focus Area	Key Actions	Lead / Responsible	Timescale	Evidence of Impact
<b>Evidence &amp; Impact Framework</b>	Partner with university to co-design outcomes tools measuring wellbeing, engagement, and re-engagement.	Director / Research Lead	2025–2026	Published impact report 2026; data informs commissioning.
<b>Nature-Based Curriculum</b>	Map national curriculum strands into outdoor	Curriculum Lead	Autumn 2025 –	Accredited learner outcomes;



Focus Area	Key Actions	Lead / Responsible	Timescale	Evidence of Impact
	learning; gain ASDAN centre approval.		Summer 2026	improved attainment evidence.
<b>Professional Development Pathway</b>	Create accredited facilitator training modules; embed reflective supervision.	Director / Training Lead	Pilot Spring 2026	100% staff trained; model adopted externally.
<b>Digital QA System</b>	Launch online portal for attendance, progress, and incident reporting.	DSL / Admin	Autumn 2025	Real-time data available to commissioners.
<b>Safeguarding Excellence</b>	Termly peer audit and annual external review of safeguarding practice.	DSL / Director	Ongoing	100% compliance; external “Outstanding” rating.
<b>Research Hub &amp; Summit</b>	Establish practitioner-research network; host annual Devon summit.	Director / Comms Lead	From 2026	3 regional partners; published practice papers.
<b>Environmental Sustainability</b>	Implement “Green Operations” plan: zero single-use plastic, 100% renewable energy sites.	Ops Lead	2026–2027	Annual carbon audit shows reduction > 30%.
<b>Family &amp; Community Engagement</b>	Introduce co-production forums with families and CYP.	DSL / Family Liaison	Termly from 2025	Increased family satisfaction scores > 90%.

## 5. Monitoring & Review

- **Termly QA reviews** and **annual strategic review** with Directors.
- External peer review every two years with another AP provider.
- Continuous feedback loop from CYP, parents/carers, and



commissioners.

- Annual publication of a **Gold-Standard Progress Report** highlighting outcomes, innovations, and lessons learned.

## 6. Next Formal Reviews

**Interim:** July 2026 – evaluate Phase 1 actions.

**Full:** July 2027 – publish Gold-Standard Report and update plan.

## 17. Document versions and review control

DATE WRITTEN/REVIEWED	WRITTEN BY	APPROVED DIRECTORS
05/10/24	Mel Triggs	Richard Scofield
07/10/25	Mel Triggs	Richard Scofield