



St Joseph's Primary School Kangaroo Point

SUSTAINABILTY POLICY

Approved: April 2012

Rationale

Environmental sustainability is critical to the long term health of our school, community and planet. Our students and school community should develop environmentally sound attitudes, habits and appropriate knowledge about reducing waste and reducing resource (such as energy and water) usage. School administration should exercise leadership through encouraging and adopting environmentally sound management practices.

Sustainability is defined as 'meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, or simply as 'enough for all forever'.

Policy

St Joseph's Primary School will promote responsible attitudes and habits to enhance environmental sustainability within the school community.

Aims

To improve practices of waste management and reduction, promote energy efficiency, reduce water usage and increase bio diversity in the school grounds.

To promote environmentally responsible management practices by the school administration.

To educate the students about environmental sustainability in the following key areas:

- Reduce, reuse and recycle
- Green waste, composting and wormeries
- Litter and stormwater
- Green purchasing

- Waste disposal
- Energy Usage

Review and Monitoring

Will take place on a term basis.

Sustainably Focused Activities

Waste Minimisation

St Joseph's school maintains a commitment to conservation by minimising waste.

It is anticipated that St Joseph's staff will establish and implement action plans for each class –

Key action plan components include:

- Separate recycle, compost and rubbish bins
- Waste monitoring and audits
- Reduced canteen litter
- Reduced use of paper, using email and white boards rather than paper and photocopying
- Inclusion in class teaching plans of the 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' message
- Continue/expand rubbish-free school days and/or rubbish-free lunch days
- Set targets for waste reduction, and recognition of good effort to this end
- Participation in World Environment Day activities

Recycling

St Joseph's will strive to recycle materials wherever possible.

By example teachers will develop their students' understanding of the opportunities for, and need to, recycle.

Key strategies include:

- Separate bins for compost, disposal waste, cans and paper
- Maintain worm farms to recycle food scraps
- Reusing single-sided paper and reducing paper usage
- Tree and plant material to be mulched or chipped and reused wherever possible
- Rubbish to be sorted for kerbside pick up and a minimum of paper or cardboard to be sent to landfill
- Where possible, the purchase of products made from recycled materials (see sustainable procurement section)
- Monitoring and assessment of classroom waste
- Recognition for those groups or individuals who reach their recycling targets
- Litter reduction will be vigorously pursued

Biodiversity

Wherever possible bio diverse solutions will be considered

- Growing rather than building shade
- Soft materials (mulch) for paths and weed control
- Children will be encouraged to plant appropriately to encourage a variety of plant and animal life

- Reduction to absolute minimum of chemicals not natural to the environment – cleaning, weed/pest control, fertilizer
- Careful attention to school grounds to ensure a continuing renewal of plant life

Energy Savings

- Use of fuels such as gas and electricity will be audited and plans made for a reduction in their use.
- Fuel efficiency decisions will be made when purchasing. (see sustainable procurement section)
- Insulation and passive cooling of buildings will be encouraged
- Information will be sought from the wider community for ways to reduce our energy consumption.
- Encourage habits which save energy (reduce use of heaters and air conditioners, switch off appliances at the wall when not in use, etc.) - promote a 'switch off' policy
- to include students in the process of developing an Energy Efficient school

Water

- Water use will be audited and reduced
- Mulch gardens
- Water less
- Plant drought hardy plants
- Report and fix leaky taps
- Where possible, water will be recycled.
- Maintain/expand systems to capture and reuse rain water.
- Stress litter reduction and reduced use of chemicals to minimise water pollution
- Include the students and staff in the process of developing a Waste Wise school
- Choose the most effective means of conserving water i.e. install dual flush cisterns
- Involve students and staff in the planning of water conservation initiatives

Sustainable Procurement

St Josephs will consider sustainability, price, quality, delivery and other criteria relevant to the product or service being sourced.

Wherever possible we will assess the environmental, social and economic impacts of our purchasing decisions and will adopt strategies to avoid unnecessary consumption.

We seek to purchase products and services that have lower environmental impacts across their life cycle. The manufacture, provision and use of products and services should as far as possible:

- Minimise greenhouse gas emissions
- Be made from verifiable renewable resources
- Utilise recycled content and be recyclable at life end
- Be locally made and from local resources

- Contribute to the local economy
- Minimise the use of water
- Minimise toxicity