

Dunkeld Consolidated School No. 6215

Environment and Sustainability Policy

PROGRAM LEADERS: Principal and Staff

COUNCIL RATIFICATION: 17 September 2013

Rationale:

It is essential that the school promotes a sound environment and sustainable culture in its capital works, landscape, practices and in the programs that are delivered to the students.

Aims:

The four core areas, being Water, Waste, Energy and Biodiversity, become an integral factor in all aspects of the school, so that the school might lead by practise and in curriculum, the value of conservation.

- **Energy:** To control energy consumption so that we reduce our impact on the natural environment, avoid unnecessary costs associated with wasting energy, educate students, staff and whole community about the best practice for use of energy consuming equipment, and to conduct an energy audit maintaining records of energy consumption.
- **Waste:** To continue to develop a Waste Wise ethic within the whole school community. To provide and maintain a healthy and aesthetically pleasing learning environment through the reduction of waste and litter. To practice waste wise principles of reduce, reuse and recycle, and to reduce the cost of waste and litter management.
- **Biodiversity:** To improve our outdoor natural environment by –
 - Planting trees that are indigenous to our location.
 - Upgrade and maintain our play areas ensuring they are environmentally friendly.
 - Use natural materials that reduce the impact on the environment.
 - Educate the school community about incorporating biodiversity into our every day school life.
- **Water:** To prompt actions that will reduce water usage, to appreciate water as a natural resource, to plant things that are indigenous to our environment and drought tolerant (where possible), to educate the whole school community about ways to reduce water usage both indoors and outdoors, and to conduct a water audit, maintaining records of our water usage.
- To provide opportunities for students to develop life skills concerning the appreciation and conservation of our natural resources.

Implementation:

Where possible the school will liaise with the local Shire Environment officer, local Landcare group, the Department of Sustainability and Environment etc so that the school can promote and put into practice the above aims as opportunities arise.

The school newsletter may be used as a means of communicating any upcoming events promoting Environmental issues and of the Schools efforts and progress in achieving the above aims.

The school will strive to celebrate and promote environmental issues throughout the year. For example Earth Hour, Waste Free Lunch Day, World Environment Day, National Water Week.

Maintain records of water consumption by the school and review usage. Ensure sound practices are used around the gardens (use of rain water tanks, watering in evenings, suitable plant selections and adequate mulching etc).

Science and Kitchen Garden programs can incorporate any of the four core areas and highlight this to students as a learning outcome.

Check water and energy efficient ratings on products when making purchases for the school and consider preservation of resources when making decisions around purchases and practices by staff, and school council sub committees.

Review consumable resource usage as part of annual budget review (e.g. gas, electricity and water).

To promote an awareness of the plant and animal life that is native to our region (and others) through our Kitchen Garden, Science and general Environment theme. In this the students could participate in Clean Up days (at the school and in the local community) and be actively involved in promotions supported by 'experts' in the wider community.

The school will use environmentally friendly methods for cleaning, pest and weed control wherever possible.

As a Waste Wise School, we will apply the Reduce, Reuse and Recycle philosophy in all school practices. Examples include use of compost heaps, recycled containers for watering and seedling planters, worm farms, provisions of bins specific to recycle, compost and use of curb side recycling collection.

Every effort will be made to create an aesthetic environment. This will include keeping all areas clutter free, using natural eco friendly materials and providing areas for both robust and peaceful activities (examples include safe playground equipment, seats in shaded areas, sensory garden).

Evaluation:

This Policy will be reviewed every three years.