

Mount Waverley Primary School



SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT POLICY

Rationale

Environmental education is a life-long process of learning that helps us to understand and appreciate the environment and our connection to it. An understanding of our natural, cultural and social heritage is essential for the development of environmentally informed citizens who are prepared to become involved in their community. The long-term aim of environmental education is the development of an environmental ethic that is reflected in individual and collective environmental practices.

Environmental education develops students' understanding of their role in their physical surroundings. Through direct contact with the environment and practice in environmental decision-making, students develop:

Aims of the Sustainable Environment Policy at MWPS are:

- to foster in students an appreciation of the environment, their relationship with it and their responsibility for its future.
- to develop in students the knowledge, skills, attitudes, values and commitment to initiate individual and collective responses that are environmentally **friendly and** responsible.

Implementation of the Sustainable Environment Policy at MWPS

In planning to achieve our goals, MWPS will develop a co-ordinated whole school approach to environmental sustainability and will:

- foster an aesthetic appreciation of environments, both built and natural
- foster an understanding of the operation of natural systems and the impact of human activity
- maintain the balance between protection and use of our environmental and natural resources
- develop skills for environmental investigation, including participation, analysis and evaluation
- encourage an informed sense of responsibility for the environment
- provide a commitment to participate in environmental management and improvement
- encourage personal lifestyles compatible with ecological sustainability
- identify environmentally responsible school operations
- identify areas of energy wastage and minimise energy use
- identify areas of water wastage and implement water conservation practices
- identify areas of wastage and implement waste minimisation practices
- identify items for recycling and implement recycling practices
- purchase environmentally responsible products, where possible and appropriate
- manage toxic materials in line with OHS procedures and guidelines
- create and maintain wildlife habitat development
- maintain and use of school facilities as a community resource where possible and appropriate
- provide for learning experiences that maintain and improve the quality of the school and its surroundings

- provide a consistent and supportive climate for environmental education in the school
- involve students in a number of school-based activities, such as environmental auditing of school resource use, waste management and the production of a regular “State of the School” Environment Report
- enhance the environment through habitat creation and maintenance and appropriate building and landscape design, showing a commitment to sound environmental practices **within Education** Department funding provisions
- implement the “Bring It In-Take It Home” program, whereby any food wrapping is taken home for disposal, including lunch order rubbish.
- implement regular Target Tuesdays, Earth Hours and weekly Rubbish Free Lunch Days
- appoint a *Sustainable Environment* program leader and maintain an Environment team, which will consist of teachers, parents and students as equal members. This team will meet regularly to discuss issues and make decisions regarding ecologically sustainable practices around the school.
- The program aims to extend its outreach to the broader school community through working bees, awareness programs and communication via articles in the school’s weekly “Messenger” newsletter.

Related Policies

Green purchasing policy