



# SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

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## Best Practice – Quality Area 3

Black Hill Kindergarten aims to become a Sustainable Learning site by reducing our ecological footprint through adopting sustainable practises in our everyday lives. We will achieve this by integrating sustainability into the curriculum through inquiry topics and instilling a sense of ownership of and pride in improving the environment. We will work with Black Hill Primary School to lead the community by demonstrating exemplary practices in waste management, water and energy usage, and develop the school grounds to promote biodiversity.

## POLICY STATEMENT

- promoting respect for, and an appreciation of, the natural environment among all at the service
- fostering children’s capacity to understand and respect the natural environment, and the interdependence between people, plants, animals and the land
- supporting the development of positive attitudes and values in line with sustainable practices
- ensuring that educators and other staff engage in sustainable practices during the operation of the service.

## PURPOSE

This policy will provide guidelines for procedures to be implemented at Black Hill Primary School and Kindergarten to ensure:

### **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 services and to conduct an energy audit and maintain records of energy consumption.

### **Waste**

To continue the development of a Waste Wise ethic within the whole school and kindergarten community; to provide and maintain a healthy and aesthetically pleasing teaching and learning environment through the reduction of waste and litter; to practise waste wise principles of reduce, reuse and recycle; to reduce the cost of waste and litter management.

### **Biodiversity**

To maintain our outdoor natural environment, by continuing to improve our gardens by propagating and planting more plants which will involve our school community in the development and maintenance of the garden; using natural materials that reduce the impact on the environment.

### **Water**

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To encourage the school and kindergarten community to reduce water usage; to appreciate water as a precious natural resource; educate the community on ways to reduce water usage indoors and outdoors; conduct a water audit and maintain records of water consumption.

## Guidelines

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### **Energy**

- Reduce the use of energy consumption within the kindergarten.
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- Include children in the process of developing and maintaining an Energy Efficient practices at home and whilst at kindergarten.
- Reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions.

### **Waste**

- To minimise rubbish and recycle our waste throughout the school and kindergarten, as much as possible, on a daily basis.
- To collect paper and cardboard rubbish to place in the recycle bin at the school.
- To include the wider community in the process of developing a Waste Wise neighbourhood.
- Children to take responsibility for disposing of food scraps, paper and rubbish in the appropriate manner.
- To promote rubbish free lunches and reward those who participate regularly.

### **Biodiversity**

- To use a garden plan for the future development of our garden, vegetable, herb gardens.
- To utilise our garden area to its full extent.
- To involve community members in maintenance of the kindergarten grounds.

### **Water**

- To reduce the water consumption within the kindergarten.
- To use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- To involve children and staff in the planning of water conservation initiatives.
- Assign student leaders from Black Hill primary school students to monitor water usage and report wastage.

## Procedures

### **Energy**

- To promote a 'switch off and save' policy for technological equipment, lighting and heating/cooling.
- Children to engage in lessons of work relating to energy.
- Students will investigate the best ways to conserve energy.

### **Waste**

- To assign children and parents to monitor rubbish free lunches.
  - Children to dispose of paper into recycling bins.
  - Use recycled paper for printers, photocopiers and scrap paper.
  - Promote the reuse principle of paper in classroom and office.
  - Food scraps are used to feed the kindergarten rabbit and excess goes home with families to feed pets.
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**Biodiversity**

- Consult local community members on ways to improve our garden (e.g. Where to plant, what to plant).
- Involve community members in planting and maintaining our gardens.
- Engage children, parents and staff in the maintenance of our gardens.

**Water**

- To promote a 'water-wise turn off' policy.
- Children to engage in lessons of work relating to water conservation.
- To assign student leaders from Black Hill primary school to monitor water usage and report wastage.
- Continue to plant trees and shrubs that require minimal watering.
- Use tank water where possible.

## Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years.

## Endorsement

This policy was adopted by the Black Hill Kindergarten Committee in July 2014.

**Review Date: August 2021**

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