



## **Wales Street Primary School Sustainability policy**

### **Rationale**

Wales Street Primary recognises the importance of becoming a sustainable school for the benefit of the Earth's environmental health. By managing resources efficiently and embedding education and sustainable practices, we will motivate the whole school community to live more sustainably. We acknowledge, and are committed to imparting to our students the importance of sustainable practices in the context of a changed climate.

As an IB school we aim to develop internationally minded people who recognise their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet in order to help create a better and more peaceful world. The development of this sustainability policy is a reflection of that commitment.

We honour and draw upon the knowledge of the First Nations people and their relationship with the land. We believe that fostering a positive attitude and appreciation of sustainable environmental practice is vital to the development of our students, will contribute towards the health of our community, and reduce our impact on the Earth.

### **School sustainability vision and principles**

In line with our Wales Street Primary Mission and Vision statement our school sustainability vision seeks to enable our students to be part of a diverse community-minded school dedicated to lifelong learning and helping students achieve their personal best by fostering skills and knowledge to be:

- Independent, creative and self-motivated
- active inquirers in the local and broader community
- reflective thinkers who are socially, environmentally, and digitally aware.

## Aims

- To educate our students and help them to develop skills in making conscious decisions for responsible energy usage, water efficiency, waste management and environmental awareness.
- To protect the environment through a proactive approach to conservation and environmental issues.
- To practise resource efficiency.
- To increase the biodiversity of the local environment.
- To practise effective waste minimisation and management.
- To reduce resource costs and carbon footprint.
- To promote the value of living sustainably.
- To achieve and maintain star accreditation status in accordance with the ResourceSmart Schools (RSS) program, led by Sustainability Victoria.

## Implementation

Sustainability is the responsibility of staff, students, and parents/carers.

The school will:

- ensure curriculum delivery incorporates elements of sustainability at all year levels, in line with the Victorian Curriculum Cross-Curriculum Priority and the International Baccalaureate-Primary Years Program
- establish and support a sustainability team that reports to school governance bodies
- engage in sustainable actions that are promoted through the RSS framework
- lead in exemplary practices in waste management, water and energy usage
- develop and use the school grounds to increase local biodiversity
- use the RSS Framework and RSS Online to monitor the school's progress towards meeting resource saving targets
- develop and maintain a School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP)
- encourage 'green events' (refer to Green Events Policy)
- promote sustainability by reporting achievements to the school and local community
- include 'Sustainability and Environment' as a standing agenda item for the school council/board and report results annually (at least).

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- Teaching staff to ensure they are adopting sustainability in teaching and learning linked to Units of Inquiry

## **Waste:**

The school should:

- Minimise and recycle its waste by using recycling bins, composting and encouraging rubbish free lunches.
- In day to day operations including excursions encourage and remind students of sustainable choices (e.g avoid asking for single use plastic bags for carrying students belongings and lunches)
- Minimise paper usage by going paperless or printing double-sided where possible.
- Safely and responsibly dispose of electronic (e.g. computers, screens, printers) and other toxic wastes (e.g. batteries) through an accredited recycling facility – e.g. as provided by the local council or not-for-profit organisations such as Work Ventures.
- Make use of the Planet Ark RecyclingNearYou website to maximise waste recycling opportunities and to reduce the cost of disposing to landfill. (e.g recycle printer cartridges, ewaste and old furniture)
- Staff room to have green/ recycling and landfill bins available
- Work to complete the ResourceSmart Schools Waste module.

## **Energy:**

The school should:

- \* Include students in the process of developing and maintaining an energy efficient school – e.g. student energy monitors.
- \* Encourage the efficient use of lighting, heating and equipment including:
- \* Ensuring heating, cooling and non-essential lights are turned-off outside of school operating hours.
- \* Encouraging maximum heating settings of 21 degrees, and minimum cooling temperatures of 24 degrees to avoid excess energy use.
- \* Work to complete the ResourceSmart Schools Energy module, school actions organised by Sustainability coordinator.

## **Biodiversity:**

The school should:

- Maintain a grounds plan to maintain and enhance school grounds biodiversity such as indigenous trees, foliage and wildlife.

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- Nurture and protect established trees, and where necessary, actively replace any trees that unfortunately reach the end of their lifecycle.
- Work to complete the ResourceSmart Schools Biodiversity module.

## **Water:**

The school should:

- Conserve water consumption within the school buildings and grounds.
- Involve the whole school community in the planning of water conservation initiatives.
- Promote the use of reusable drink-bottles and drinking fountains; and discourage the purchase / use-of retail drink bottles.
- Ensure School water tank water is maintained and used to the fullest extent possible to flush toilets and maintain gardens, trees and grassed areas.
- Work to complete the ResourceSmart Schools Water module school actions organised by Sustainability coordinator.

## **Green Purchasing:**

The school should:

- Introduce 'green purchasing' procedures for the school community in order to reduce environmental impacts and educate the community on making environmentally friendly choices.
- Promote the use of reusable, rather than disposable or recyclable, products – e.g. crockery, cupware and cutlery. Use of drinking straws should be discouraged.
- Where possible, use environmentally friendly cleaning and consumable products e.g. hand towels, toilet paper, tissues and serviettes with recycled content.
- Purchase environmentally-friendly paper (100% recycled) and ink for printing devices.
- Where possible look for environmentally-friendly alternatives to classroom resources

## **Fundraising/ Social events**

- All fundraising/social events planned with an aim for zero waste and a demonstrated sustainability focus
- Fundraising and social events will have a plan in place for waste disposal and removal, to align with the school's policy on zero waste events, and its responsibility for waste disposal and removal
- All external vendors will have policies and procedures in place to reduce waste brought on site

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- All external vendors will use FSC certified products
- All food packaging and napkins purchased by the school will be FSC certified and home compostable.
- All JSC events and fundraisers will aim for zero waste and have a sustainability focus.

#### Links and documents related to this policy

- Green Events Policy
- Green Purchasing Policy
- ResourceSmart School Memorandum of Understanding
- School Environmental Management Plan
- ResourceSmart Schools Online: [my.resourcesmartschools.vic.gov.au](http://my.resourcesmartschools.vic.gov.au)
- Sustainability Victoria: [www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/schools](http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/schools)

#### Endorsement

This policy will be reviewed biannually or more often if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstances.

<b>Ratified by</b>	Robyn Owens
<b>Title</b>	Principal
<b>Signature</b>	
<b>Date</b>	1/08/2025