

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

RATIONALE:

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

AIM:

To consistently use resources in a sustainable manner, aiming to conserve resources where possible and reduce our overall use of energy, water and waste, and to ensure sustainable practices are considered when planning new facilities or upgrading existing ones.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Energy

- Reduce the use of energy consumption within the school
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible
- Include students in the process of developing and maintaining an Energy Efficient school
- Reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions.

Waste

- Minimise rubbish and recycle our waste throughout the school, as much as possible, on a daily basis
- Include the school community in the process of developing a Waste Wise school
- Students to take responsibility for disposing of food scraps, paper and rubbish in the appropriate manner
- Promote rubbish free lunches and reward those who participate regularly
- Ensure all classes are using compost bins and placing that compost in the right place.

Biodiversity

- Use a garden plan for the future development of our school grounds
- Utilise our garden area to its full extent
- Involve community members in maintenance of school grounds
- Each year level to be encouraged to have ownership in the upkeep of an area of school grounds.

Water

- Reduce the water consumption within the school
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible
- Assign students to monitor water usage and report wastage.

The school, through the Principal and School Council, will ensure sustainable practices are considered when planning new facilities or upgrading existing ones, involving students and staff as much as possible.

Learning Focus

There will be a sustainability focus incorporated into the inquiry units across all year levels in line with the Victorian Cross Curriculum priority.

Energy

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

Ratified by School Council June 2021

Review date June 2024

Waste

- Assign students to dispose of waste and recycled products daily in the appropriate manner
- Assign students to monitor rubbish free lunches and each term award the class who has the most rubbish free lunches
- Monitors to collect food waste daily and transfer it to the right compost bins
- Students to dispose of paper products into the blue paper recycling bins
- Use recycled paper for printers and photocopiers where possible
- Promote the reuse principle of paper in classrooms, staffroom and office.

Biodiversity

- Consult local community members in ways to improve our garden (e.g. Where to plant, what to plant)
- Involve community members in planting and maintaining our gardens
- Engage students and staff in the maintenance of our gardens
- Grow and harvest a range of vegetables and herbs to be utilised in cooking classes.

Water

- Promote a 'water-wise turn off' policy
- Assign students to monitor water usage and report wastage
- Plant trees and plants that require minimal watering.

Professional Learning

Staff will engage in professional learning to support implementation of sustainability processes.

Community Involvement

We will encourage community participation in environmental projects undertaken, as well as, invite parents with expertise to help maintain and improve our school environment. We will also promote sustainable living through educating the school community through our students.

All people within our school will be informed and responsible for implementing these programs. The various committees in conjunction with the Principal will be responsible for keeping records and reporting on the outcomes and progress of each program through school newsletters, and the annual report. Reports will be provided to staff and School Council outlining the goals, aims, costing, savings and other relevant issues as they pertain to sustainable practices. These practices will be measured via utility usage and other such measures where possible.

EVALUATION:

This policy will be evaluated as part of the school's three year review cycle. The policy will be listed in the school newsletter in the ratified policy list, available via the website and school office and snippets included into the newsletter. Students may access the policy as part of the learning completed in class. The policy will be tabled at staff briefing and discussed when planning student learning as required.

REFERENCES:

CERES Workshop - PL

Resource Smart Schools <https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/energy-efficiency-and-reducing-emissions/resourcesmart-schools>