



Richmond Primary School Environmental Education Policy

Rationale

To engage students, staff and the community in our quest to develop a sustainable school environment which models and promotes the importance of sustainable living and environmental issues.

Aim

As part of Richmond Primary School's environmental commitment we will endeavour to practise Waste Wise initiatives, promote energy efficiency, reduce water usage, increase biodiversity in the school gardens and encourage community practice in sustainability. We will include and refer to the environmental management plan in our planning across the whole school in all learning areas.

Objectives

Biodiversity

To improve our outdoor natural environment through:

- planting trees that are conducive to our environment
- maintaining the school garden
- using natural materials that reduce the impact of the environment
- educating the school community about incorporating biodiversity in every day life

Energy

To control energy consumption so that we reduce our impact on the natural environment by:

- avoiding unnecessary costs associated with wasting energy
- educate students, staff and whole community about the best practice for use of energy consuming equipment and services
- conduct an energy audit and maintain records of energy consumption

Waste

To continue the development of 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 practise waste wise principles of reduce, reuse and recycle
- to reduce the cost of waste and litter management

Water

To prompt actions that will reduce water usage to:

- appreciate water as a precious natural resource
- plant trees that are conducive to our environment and don't need much water
- educate the whole school community about ways to reduce water usage both indoors and outdoors conduct a water audit and maintain records of water consumption

Implementation

1.

Biodiversity

- To use our garden plan for the future development of our school grounds
- To create a school environment for students, staff and parents to enjoy
- To choose materials that have less impact on the environment
- To include the whole school community in the process of increasing biodiversity in our school

2.

Energy

- Reduce the cost of energy consumption within our school
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible
- Reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emission we create to create a healthier impact on the environment
- Choose the most appropriate energy saving methods available
- To include students in the process of developing an Energy Efficient school

3.

Waste

- To minimise and recycle our waste as much as possible on a daily basis
- To use both sides of all paper in order to reduce waste
- To collect and send all scrap food to compost bins
- To reduce the amount of paper in the school by recycling and reusing it before it gets emptied into the recycling bin
- To reduce the amount of waste going into 'skip' bins
- To include the students and staff in the process of developing a Waste Wise school

4.

Water

- To reduce the cost of water consumption within our school
- To use equipment and resources as effectively as possible
- Choose the most effective means of conserving water
- To include students and staff in the process of developing water conservation initiatives

Aims and Targets

To achieve an increase of biodiversity in our school grounds and to reduce our energy, waste and water consumption as compared to the initial baseline data.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle.

Ratified at School Council: May 2009