

SUSTAINABLE GROUNDS & ENVIRONMENT POLICY

Ratified by School Council: September 2008

Date of Next Review: September 2011

Purpose

- To provide a safe and stimulating environment for students to learn and play in, which promotes environmentally sound ideas and practices.
- To maintain, protect and improve the school's buildings and grounds and work towards Middle Park Primary School being environmentally sustainable and rubbish free.
- To promote practices which:
 - reduce waste and litter
 - encourage water and energy efficiency
 - significantly reduce the amount of waste going to landfill
- To provide opportunities for students to learn about environmental sustainability and recycling, thereby linking home, school and community.

Guidelines

- To involve the whole school community in developing strategies to reduce waste and litter at school community events thereby promoting a litter free school.
- The school's buildings and grounds master plan will be reviewed at least every five years and opportunities for incorporating environmentally sustainable options in design, plantings, materials and facilities will be promoted and adopted wherever possible.
- The Buildings and Grounds subcommittee will develop and monitor a strategy for the long term maintainance of school's buildings and grounds within the heritage guidelines and which incorporates environmental sustainability.
- Consultation with staff, students and the wider school community on the current and future needs of the school environment in relation to educational, leisure and physical requirements will occur on a regular basis.
- Community input to enhance and maintain the school's physical resources and grounds will be encouraged via working bees, participation on the Building and Grounds subcommittee and in the development of the buildings and grounds master plan.

Implementation

- An Environmental Team will be elected annual, comprising representatives of teachers and students
- The Buildings and Grounds sub-committee, comprising staff and parent representatives will have overall responsibility for the development of a maintenance plan and schedule (incorporating budgeting, procedures and inspection schedules) and the development, review and implementation of the grounds master plan.
- Waste and litter management will be incorporated into relevant integrated studies units each year, across all class levels.
- Cans, plastics, PET containers and all other allowable recyclables will be recycled through the City of Port Phillip's weekly recycling service.
- Classrooms and admin areas will be provided with the necessary resources to recycle and reuse materials.
- Community awareness of the waste and litter management strategies implemented at Middle Park Primary School will be raised by frequent articles in the newsletter.
- Regular consultation with the whole school community will occur in relation to the physical environment of the school.

- Waste and litter reducing strategies to become part of the planning of school events and excursions including events organised by the class representatives and fundraising groups.
- Students to unwrap food if possible, before leaving the school buildings and dispose of waste appropriately before entering the schoolyard.
- Rubbish bins will be strategically placed around the school grounds for student use.
- Recycling bins provided by Port Phillip Council will be located around the school for Middle Park Primary School's paper recycling needs. These will be managed by one area of the school and put out for collection fortnightly.
- Port Phillip Council recycling bins will be put out for collection each week for the recycling of the school's plastics and PET containers.
- Compost bin obtained and maintained and used through out the school for the recycling of food scraps.
- The staff room and each classroom will be provided with a container for the collection of food scraps. Student monitors will be appointed and collect these to add to the worm farms/ compost regularly.
- Paper from the reuse paper boxes will be used for scrap paper needs and notepads.
- All staff and students are encouraged to reduce the amount of paper used in the classroom.
- Recyclable containers and products used in the school are to be reused and/or recycled wherever possible.
- Compact fluorescent light globes will be purchased and installed in all suitable fittings throughout the school as replacement globes are required.
- Rainwater tanks will be installed and connected to the student toilets plumbing system to reduce the amount of water used by the school
- When purchasing new equipment and appliances for the school (such as heaters, fridges, dishwashers, computers, printers etc.), operational energy and water efficiency will be considered as part of the choice of these items.

Outcomes

- A safe, clean, aesthetically pleasing and environmentally sustainable physical environment will be established and maintained for the enjoyment and well-being of the whole school community.
- Students will have an understanding of environmental sustainability principles and practices and contribute to the practical implementation of these principles in their school environment.
- A litter free school, contributing to less waste going to landfill, in the broader community.
- Reduced cost to the school for water and energy usage, paper purchases and waste removal.
- A regular supply of compost for use in the school's garden and plantings will be produced.
- A demonstrable commitment across the school community to environmentally sustainable principles and practices.