

# Sustainability Policy

## Rationale

Environmental education is a life-long process of learning that helps us to understand and appreciate the environment and our connection to it. An understanding of our natural, cultural and social heritage is essential for the development of environmentally informed citizens who are prepared to become involved in their community. The long-term aim of environmental education is the development of an environmental ethic that is reflected in individual and collective environmental practices.

Environmental education develops students' understanding of their role in their physical surroundings. Through direct contact with the environment and practice in environmental decision-making, students at Coburg North Primary School will be encouraged and assisted to develop an environmental consciousness and awareness of their relationship with the environment.

## Aims

- To foster in students an appreciation of the environment, their relationship with it and their responsibility for its future.
- To develop in students the knowledge, skills, attitudes, values and commitment to initiate individual and collective responses that are environmentally friendly and responsible.
- To adopt and promote sustainable practices in ResourceSmart's core modules- waste management, water, energy usage and biodiversity.

## Implementation

In planning to achieve our goals, CNPS will develop a co-ordinated whole school approach to environmental sustainability and will:

- Foster an aesthetic appreciation of environments, both built and natural.
- Foster an understanding of the operation of natural systems and the impact of human activity.
- Maintain the balance between protection and use of our environmental and natural resources.
- Develop skills for environmental investigation, including participation, analysis and evaluation.
- Encourage an informed sense of responsibility and ownership for the environment.
- Provide a commitment to participate in environmental management and improvement.
- Encourage personal lifestyle choices and changes, compatible with ecological sustainability.
- Identify environmentally responsible school operations.
- Identify areas of energy wastage and minimise energy use where possible.
- Identify areas of water wastage and implement water conservation practices
- Identify areas of wastage and implement waste minimisation practices
- Identify items for recycling and implement common recycling practices
- Promote green purchasing - purchase environmentally responsible products, where appropriate and possible.
- Manage toxic materials in line with OHS procedures and guidelines.
- Create and maintain wildlife habitat development ('Nature Walkway/Corridor)
- Maintain and use school facilities as a community resource where appropriate and possible.

References: <http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/services-and-advice/schools>  
<http://www.resourcesmartschools.vic.gov.au/about/>

Mount Waverly Primary School (Ms Loretta Leary; Environmental Coordinator)



- Provide for learning experiences that maintain and improve the quality of the school and its surroundings.
- Provide a consistent and supportive climate for environmental education in the school
- Involve students in a number of school-based activities, such as environmental auditing of school resource use, waste management and the production of a bi-yearly “State of the School” Environment Report for staff and School Council.
- Enhance the environment through habitat creation and maintenance and appropriate building and landscape design, showing a commitment to sound environmental practices within funding provisions.
- Appoint Sustainability Coordinators and maintain an Environmental Team, which will consist of teachers, parents and students as equal members. This team will meet regularly to discuss issues and make decisions regarding ecologically sustainable practices around the school.
- The program aims to extend its outreach to the broader school community through working bees, participation in environmental projects, awareness programs and communication via articles in the school’s weekly newsletter and sustainability web page.

### **Evaluation**

- This policy will be reviewed every three years.
- This policy was last ratified by School Council; October 2014

