



Sustainability Policy

BACKGROUND

Children develop positive attitudes and values about sustainable practices by engaging in learning experiences, joining in discussions that explore solutions to environmental issues, and watching adults' model sustainable practices. Children learn to live interdependently with the environment.

POLICY STATEMENT

Holy Family Catholic School Early Learning service acknowledges the importance of integrating sustainable practices to help promote an environmentally aware community. Our service aims to support our community learn about and implement sustainable practices and foster respect and care for the living and non-living environment.

HOW THE POLICY WILL BE IMPLEMENTED

1. Goal

Our service will ensure the environment is safe, clean and well-maintained. Children's awareness of the environment will be promoted through daily practices, resources and interactions. Sustainable practices will be encouraged within the service. Educators, children and families will be encouraged to become advocates for a sustainable future.

2. Strategies

2.1 Coordinator will:

- Encourage educators, families and children to engage in innovative practices and appreciate the wonder of the natural world while protecting the planet for future generations.
- Make sustainable practices a part of daily routine. These include:
 - Recycling
 - Re-Using Materials
 - Composting
 - Gardening
 - Energy conservation
 - Water conservation
 - Sustainable equipment purchases
- Plan excursions and incursions focused on sustainable practices, such as visiting the zoo and learning about animals and conservation, visiting wetlands on nature walks, Plant a Tree Day and inviting families and other community members to share their sustainable ideas and practices.

2.2 Educators will:

- Connect children to nature through art and play and allow children to experience the natural environment through natural materials like wood, stone, sand and recycled materials, plants including native vegetation, gardening tools and watering cans.
- Engage children in learning about the food cycle by growing, harvesting and cooking.
- Involve children in nature walks, education about plants and gardening and growing plants and flowers from seeds, bug finding and using natural trees and plants for craft activities.

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- Include recycling as part of everyday practice at the education and care service. Recycling containers will be provided throughout the service.
- Use a composting bin to reduce food waste in the education and care service.
- Encourage children to join the composting and recycling roster.
- Role model sustainable practices.
- Provide information to families on sustainable practices that are implemented at the education and care service and encourage the application of these practices in the home environment.
- Share ideas between educators, children and families about sustainable ideas, implementation and resources through emails, newsletters and conversations.
- Role model about energy and water conservation, practices of turning off lights and air-conditioning when a room is not in use, emptying water play containers onto garden areas, turn off running taps and keeping doors closed.
- Reduce the amount of plastic and disposable equipment they purchase and select materials that are made of natural materials and fibres.
- Seek to embed sustainable practice in the education and care service. The concepts of “reduce, re-use and recycle” will become part of everyday practice for both children and educators to build lifelong attitudes towards sustainable practices.
- Acknowledge and celebrate environmental awareness events like Clean Up Australia and Plant a tree day.
- Encourage families to bring in recycled materials to be used as resources.

REFERENCES:

- Quality Area 3 – Physical environment

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