



## **Weetangera Primary School Preschool Unit Sustainability procedures**

### **Purpose**

Weetangera School, acknowledges the importance of integrating sustainable practices to help promote an environmentally conscious preschool and community. This procedure provides guidelines to:

- Encourage children to be active participants in environmental practices
- Promote the importance of sustainable practices, which includes recycling, reusing and reducing rubbish
- Provide opportunities for incorporating sustainable practices
- Participate actively in sustainability programs for preschools
- To empower children to appreciate the natural environment in a variety of ways and verbalise their experiences (Aesthetic appreciation and sensory perception, language, emotional and social development). This includes developing a greater awareness of the rural aspect within Canberra and rural region around Canberra
- To empower children to express their appreciation of the natural environment in a range of ways (drawing, painting, collage etc., dramatic play, books and literacy play, music, creative movement etc.)

**Weetangera School Preschool Unit** is committed to:

- Minimise waste production by the Preschool going to landfill and increase the percentage of material that is reused and recycled
- Encourage children to participate in all activities and strategies to assist with litter reduction, water, paper and energy conservation
- Support current sustainability programs that relate to our Preschool
- Consulting and working collaboratively with families, recognising cultural practices and lifestyle choices
- The education of parents/guardians and the community about sustainable practices through the provision of information, role-modelling and discussions/consultation while acknowledging the diversity of families
- Providing children opportunities to learn about our environment and incorporate sustainable practices
- Providing a safe, supportive and social environment in which children can enjoy sustainable practices
- To decrease the amount of energy that the Preschool uses through greater efficiency and better practices, and to maximise the use of energy from carbon neutral sources



- To increase the biodiversity of the Preschool by planting native species where possible and increasing the habitat area for local wildlife
- To minimise the consumption of mains water at the Preschool and to utilise other sources such as a rainwater tank to assist in this reduction

## **Background**

Sustainability education should be incorporated into everything and should be considered as an ongoing part of the program rather than isolated activities. Sustainable development should meet the needs of the present citizens without compromising the ability of future generations to live comfortably. Children are our future generation; it is essential that adults advocate and promote sustainable practices. Children need to feel positive about the future as they are introduced to the lovely aspects of the world and empowered to begin to look after it.

The United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development started in 2005 promoting appropriate teaching and resources developed and used to teach all children about protecting the planet. Sustainable practices are essential if children are to become socially responsible and show respect for the environment.

## **Procedures**

### **The school is responsible for:**

- Reviewing every three years, with the consultation of staff, committee and parent/guardians, the guidelines for sustainable practices considering needs of families and children
- Ensuring the playrooms, play spaces, play equipment, meal times, relaxation and social play support children and families to make environmental choices
- Providing families with ongoing information in the form of brochures, newsletters, tip sheets and support focus on promoting sustainable practices
- Facilitating and encouraging the implementation of a range of strategies to reduce resource use and increase biodiversity
- Participating in community programs that integrate environmental practices to reduce water use and energy use
- Encouraging community participation in our environmental projects and strategies and encourage similar strategies to be taken at home
- Applying best environmental practice and principles to the design, construction and operation of all new buildings and gardens to enable high levels of energy efficiency and sustainability to be achieved

### **The staff are responsible for:**

- Ensure that the objectives above are incorporated into the curriculum to ensure that all children understand the importance of sustainability
- Undertaking program planning to ensure children are provided with a wide range of experiences to support social, emotional, physical and cognitive development
- Ensuring gender, cultural, age and individual differences are considered when planning activities
- Exploring and discussing the importance of sustainable practices, which includes recycling, reusing and reducing rubbish
- Participating in community programs that integrate environmental practices to reduce water use and energy use
- Supporting this policy when organising excursions and centre events
- Encourage children to become more environmentally aware and actively involved in

sustainable activities

- Ensuring students on placement and volunteers are aware of and comply with this policy
- Supervision of children during participation of sustainable practices where necessary
- Ensuring the playrooms, play spaces, play equipment, meal times, relaxation and social play support children and families to make environmental choices
- Model appropriate sustainable practices to the children at Preschool
- Assist with litter reduction, water, paper, and energy conservation through habitual practices

**The parents/guardians are responsible for:**

- Supporting the objectives and strategies outlines in this policy
- Modelling appropriate sustainable practices to the children
- Encouraging children to becomes more environmentally aware and actively involved in sustainable activities

**Reviewed April 2018**