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## **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PLAN POLICY**



### **Help for non-English speakers**

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the schools Business Manager.

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this plan is to outline the actions our school will undertake to improve environmental sustainability and address climate change.

## **Environmental sustainability vision, rationale and governance**

### **VISION**

Our school takes care of its environment and the environment of the local community. We do this by educating students about environmental sustainability, and taking actions including reducing litter, planting native gardens, and reducing our carbon emissions. We believe that every opportunity to take care of our environment is a learning opportunity.

Our school will join Sustainability Victoria's ResourceSmart School program to get assistance in reducing the environmental impact of our school operations and inspiring our school community.

We will provide students with opportunities to garden at school and learn about plants and animals while they do it.

We teach our students about the local environment, natural hazards, and how plants can help to mitigate those hazards.

Our vision is to foster students as future leaders of our community to become ethical decision makers who understand how they can impact the environment around them.

### **RATIONALE**

#### **Context**

Environmental sustainability matters to our school because it gives us an opportunity to create gardens and grow fruits and vegetables. Our community garden will provide an opportunity to connect with parents and teach students about healthy and sustainable food sources.

We know that students at our school want to take action on climate change. Our school will demonstrate we are responsive to their needs by reducing the environmental impact of school operations through changes to operations and infrastructure. We will empower them by creating opportunities to listen to their ideas and take further climate action.

Local pollution from traffic is a key concern of our school community. We will take action to do what we can to mitigate traffic pollution by planting native trees and shrubs around our school to help improve air quality. Planting trees and caring for gardens provides additional opportunities to learn about the environment.

Students know that the local environment offers risks as well as opportunities. Learning about fire, floods, climate change and the environment as a whole in a safe way will improve student wellbeing and safety.

## **Values**

Respect – we will respect our environment by taking personal responsibility to reduce our carbon emissions, waste and ensure we don't litter.

Community – we will improve our school in a way that makes our community a better place to live work and play.

Reconciliation – we will improve our understanding of Aboriginal culture by learning from Traditional Owners about how we can better care for the land we are on.

Wellbeing – we will support student wellbeing by showing them that they can make an impact on their local environment and reduce the impact of school operations.

Safety – we will improve student safety by creating a natural environment which supports clean air and gives them shaded places to play outside.

## **School Leadership and Governance (planning committee and student-led groups)**

Our school has nominated an Environmental Sustainability Leader who will work with a student-led group.

## **Related policies and resources**

Department of Education policies and resources:

- [Environmental Sustainability in Schools](#)
- [Single Use Plastic Ban](#)
- [Sustainable Facilities](#)
- [Koorie Teaching Resources](#)
- [Marrung](#) Aboriginal Education Plan

Ballam Park Primary School policies and resources:

- Statement of school values and school philosophy
- Inclusion and diversity policy
- Student wellbeing and engagement policy
- Annual Implementation plan

- Emergency Management Plan

Updated in 2023

Next review in 2027