



Sustainability Policy - Heany Park Primary

Rationale

Heany Park Primary recognises the importance of becoming a sustainable school for the benefit of the Earth's environmental health. By managing resources efficiently and embedding education and sustainable practices, we will motivate the whole school community to live more sustainably.

We honour and draw upon the knowledge of the First Nations people and their relationship with the land. We believe that fostering a positive attitude and appreciation of sustainable environmental practice is vital to the development of our students, will contribute towards the health of our community, and reduce our impact on the Earth.

School sustainability vision and principles

Heany Park Primary School is a child centred community, empowering students to be inquiring, responsible, compassionate and globally minded citizens. Our teaching and learning embodies our school values and drives the development of challenging and engaging programmes. This enables our students to become lifelong learners, who take action to promote a peaceful and sustainable world through respect and understanding. We seek to actively engage and empower our students, staff, and community to be accountable and care for the environmental future by adopting sustainable practices in our everyday operations. We aim to achieve this by integrating sustainability into school infrastructure, management, and all areas of the curriculum. We will educate to develop lifelong sustainable practices and instil a sense of ownership and pride in improving the environment. We will lead the community by demonstrating environmentally positive practices in waste management, water, and energy usage, and will continue to develop the school grounds to improve biodiversity.

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By becoming a Resource Smart school and working towards our vision, we aim for our school community to

- develop a greater understanding of the impact of their actions on the environment.
- gain a greater appreciation and understanding of sustainability principles and practices.
- become empowered to use their knowledge of sustainable practices to apply strategies and take-action within the school environment and beyond.
- develop a sense of ownership and pride throughout the school community in improving the environment.
- To develop future sustainability mentors and leaders by creating sustainability leadership opportunities such as the green team and school eco warriors.
- develop an attitude of we can do, and we will improve the positive impact we have on the environment both at school and in our everyday lives.
- work towards becoming an accredited five-star sustainable school, maintain this accreditation over time and help other schools within the community to reach their Resource smart goals.

Aims

- To educate our students, and subsequently their families, in responsible energy usage, water efficiency, waste management and environmental awareness.
- To protect the environment through a proactive approach to conservation and environmental issues.
- To practise resource efficiency.
- To increase the biodiversity of the school grounds and local environment.
- To practise effective waste minimisation and management.
- To reduce resource costs and carbon footprint.
- To promote the value of living sustainably.
- To increase awareness and understanding of world environmental issues and to learn tools and strategies to working towards reducing these and empowering others to do so.

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- To achieve and maintain star accreditation status in accordance with the ResourceSmart Schools (RSS) program, led by Sustainability Victoria.

Implementation

Sustainability is the responsibility of staff, students, and parents/carers.

The school will:

- ensure curriculum delivery incorporates elements of sustainability at all year levels, in line with the Victorian Curriculum Cross-Curriculum Priority
- establish and support a staff sustainability team that reports to school governance bodies
- establish and support a student sustainability team that reports to school governance bodies
- engage in sustainable actions that are promoted through the RSS framework
- lead in exemplary practices in waste management, water and energy usage
- develop and use the school grounds to increase local biodiversity
- use the RSS Framework and RSS Online to monitor the school's progress towards meeting resource saving targets
- develop and maintain a School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP)
- encourage 'green events' by developing a green events policy
- promote sustainability by reporting achievements to the school and local community.
- include 'Sustainability and Environment' as a standing agenda item for the school council/board and report results annually.

Links and documents related to this policy.

- Green Events Policy
- Green Purchasing Policy
- ResourceSmart School Memorandum of Understanding
- School Environmental Management Plan
- ResourceSmart Schools Online: my.resourcesmartschools.vic.gov.au

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- Sustainability Victoria: www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/schools

Endorsement

This policy will be reviewed biannually or more often if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstances.

Ratified by	School Council on 12 October 2023
Approved by School Council President	Nilupa Dediwalage
Approved by Principal	Janet Evison
Date	12/10/23