



Oakleigh Grammar

Policy Document Name	Environmental Management Plan & Sustainability Policy
Date Ratified by Management Committee	Novemeber 2023
Date for Review	November 2026

1. Preamble

At Oakleigh Grammar, our school and community work together to make others aware of the precious nature of our environment. We synergise and seek to understand and improve sustainability in day-to-day operations, curriculum and community. With the end in mind, we aim to reduce our impact on the biosphere in order to produce a clean, safe and healthy environment and preserve resources for future generations.

2. Aims

- To develop an environmentally conscious culture at Oakleigh Grammar and its surrounding community.
- To improve biodiversity by planting indigenous species of plants in our garden beds to increase the habitat area for local and indigenous wildlife.
- To minimise landfill waste output ~~to 0.3m³ per student~~ per year and increase the percentage of material that is reused, recycled and composted.
- To minimise the consumption of mains water ~~to 4kL per student~~ per year through the improvement of plumbing systems and water conservation programs.
- To introduce 'green purchasing' procedures for the school community in order to reduce environmental impacts and educate the community on making environmentally friendly choices for life.
- To include students in the process of maintaining an eco-conscious and energy efficient school.
- To efficiently utilise technology in order to minimise paper based usage in teaching and learning programs.

3. Protocols and Guidelines

Curriculum delivery will incorporate the principles of the 7 Habits, IB Learner Profile and MYP to link with elements of sustainability

The school will engage in daily sustainable practices that incorporate environmentally friendly behaviours by utilising systems, for example, recycle bins, standby/shutdown systems, rubbish free days, composting.

The school will engage with the community by promoting parent and community participation in initiatives undertaken by the school, including projects involving the maintenance and development of the school grounds, practices in waste management, water and energy usage.

4. Implementation

The School will implement a hands-on approach to education for sustainability through the curriculum at each year level and whole school events. Student learning will focus on developing awareness and taking action within the school and wider community.

The School will support student led initiatives and actions that focus on taking action and developing awareness on sustainability.

The School will inform all people within of the guidelines outlined in this policy, to ensure responsibility from a whole-school approach to energy efficient and sustainable practices.

5. Areas for Consideration

a. Biodiversity

- Undertake habitat assessments to gather information about biodiversity and identify areas for improvement
- Encourage an appreciation of the natural environment through learning experiences e.g. curriculum, excursions, incursions and school camps
- Increase biodiversity in the school yard in order to support local flora and fauna
- Develop and showcase native and indigenous gardens as model to the school and wider community.

b. Energy

- Undertake energy audits to gather information about energy usage and identify areas for improvement
- Develop a program that promotes sustainable transport such as "walk-to-school", "ride-to-school" and undertake audits to measure improvement
- Include the whole school community in the process of developing an 'Energy Efficient' school
- Promote the efficient use of energy, lights and heating/cooling, and ensure appliances are switched off when not in use
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible
- Choose the most appropriate energy saving methods available
- Develop an awareness program that promotes sustainable transport e.g. walk-to-school
- Increase the use of carbon neutral energy sources.

c. Waste

- Undertake waste and litter audits to gather information and identify areas for improvement
- Include the whole school community in the process of developing a 'Waste Wise' school through the principles of 'Rethink/Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle'
- Minimise landfill waste and maximise recycling and composting e.g. rubbish free lunches, recycling bins, compost buckets and worm farms
- Enforce and maintain litter-free school grounds through school-based programs and initiatives

d. Water

- Undertake water audits to gather information about usage and identify areas for improvement.
- Appreciate water as a precious natural resource
- Water conservation to be incorporated into units of work
- Involve the whole school community in the planning of water conservation and storm water quality initiatives
- Choose the most effective means of conserving water e.g. water tanks for flushing toilets.

e. Green Purchasing

- Purchase environment-friendly paper for printers and photocopiers.
- Purchase environment-friendly paper alternatives for items like toilet paper, hand towels, tissues and serviettes.
- Increase the use of furniture and equipment made from second hand or recycled materials.
- Use more environmentally friendly products both inside and outside the classroom.

6. Evaluation

This policy to be reviewed as part of Oakleigh Grammar's policy review cycle.

The Annual Program Budget review will provide recommendations which may be used to affect policy change in the future.