

Sustainability Strategy



Policy Objective

To support the implementation of sustainable methods throughout Hawthorn Child Care Centre.

Implementation

We believe that sustainability is a fundamental lesson for all children to learn as they grow and make their mark on the world. We are committed to adopting sustainable methods for our day to day management of the service.

- Council recycling and green waste bins are used by the Centre to minimize the service's contribution to landfill.
- Water saving taps are used throughout high traffic areas within the Centre.
- Timer controlled taps are used within the children's bathrooms.
- Half flush conversions are implemented on all toilets. Educators will educate and encourage the children to use them effectively.
- Water and milk left over from mealtimes is used to water the Centre's gardens. Educators will support the children to participate in this activity.
- Appropriate compostable food waste from children's morning tea is placed in the Centre's compost bin. Educators will support the children to participate in this activity.
- Food scraps are placed into biodegradable bags and placed into green waste bins for council collection.
- Recycling bins (organic and mixed recycling) are used throughout room in the Centre. Educators will encourage the children to participate in recycling their rubbish.
- Solar panels were installed to reduce the amount of electricity used by the Centre, reducing the environmental impacts of electricity use
- Lights are turned off when not in use.
- Energy efficient light globes are used throughout the Centre.
- Electrical equipment is switched off when not in use.
- The Centre's laundry is line dried whenever possible.
- Washing is consolidated to save energy and water use.
- Efficient uses of heating and cooling systems are applied throughout the Centre with use of heating and cooling systems minimized in favour of non-energy using methods such as opening or closing windows and doors
- Refillable ink cartridges are utilised in printers to save on land fill.
- A Planet Ark ink cartridge recycling box is on site and can be used by families as well as the Centre.
- Recycled printing paper is used by the Centre. Wherever possible double-sided printing is used to reduce the amount of paper used by the Centre.
- Families are asked to donate used paper for drawing and craft.
- Materials such as scrap paper, card and boxes are reused for activities. Families are encouraged to donate their recycled goods, where appropriate, for use by the children.
- Automatic portion-controlled paper towel is used in the Jacaranda and Peppercorn bathroom to try and limit paper wastage. Children in the Banksia room are educated and supported to use one piece of paper towel when drying their hands.
- Children from 18 months of age are asked to supply their own drink bottles, thus saving on using the dishwasher throughout the day to wash cups.
- An industrial dishwasher is in use within the kitchen to save on power and water usage.

- Each room focuses on specific sustainability goals in their program each term.
- Educators use songs, stories and rhymes to highlight environmental issues.
- Families are provided with up to date information about sustainable living via the Skoolbag app.
- The SeeSaw and Skoolbag apps are used where possible to communicate with families rather than printing information
- The garden spaces in the outdoor areas of the Centre are used to grow herbs, fruits, and vegetables which are then used in cooking the Centre meals. Children are supported to take part in the planting and care of the produce, providing an opportunity to learn about life cycles and our role in caring for the environment, as well as healthy eating.
- Indoor plants are in place across the Centre. Children are supported to take part in the care of the plants, allowing them to learn about their role in caring for the environment.
- Families have been invited to donate non-toxic plant cuttings from their or their extended family's' garden to be planted on Centre premises.
- Animals are hired from the Living Eggs company and the Nature Education Centre and placed in rooms to support the children's understanding of life cycles and provide an opportunity to develop skills around the care of animals.
- A worm farm is in place in the Under-2 yard. The worm farm is cared for by the children with support from educators, and the output of the worm farm is used to fertilize the garden in the Gumnut/Peppercorn yard.
- Families are encouraged to share excess produce from their gardens with other families at the Centre to support a reduction in food waste.
- wider community to borrow or donate books, promoting the reuse of no longer wanted books and reducing landfill from books placed in the rubbish.
- A box for families to place their used batteries in available at the front of the Centre. When full, the contents of this box are taken to a battery recycling point at Mitcham Aldi.
- Two charity bins are located on the premises to encourage families to donate goods rather than throw them away.
- From 2018 paperwork which is subject to regular reviews and updates, such as policies and risk assessments, are kept as electronic copies where possible to reduce the amount of paper used
- The Staff Handbook, Parent Handbook, Visitor Handbook, Volunteer and Student Handbook, and Work Place Health and Safety Handbook are kept as electronic copies and are available on a tablet in the Centre foyer to reduce the amount of paper used
- A rainwater tank can be accessed by both staff and children under staff supervision for water use in the sandpit, for water play, for watering the garden etc.
- Centre management aims to use sustainable resources and materials where possible, including repairing rather than replacing damaged resources; reusing resources and materials in new and different ways; using recycled resources; using donations from families and educators; and sourcing resources and materials from second hand shops, recycled goods stores, and the natural environment
- The grass area in the main yard was replaced with artificial turf in September 2018 in order to remove the need for continual replanting and watering
- The Centre attempts to source environmentally friendly cleaning products wherever possible

Changes to Existing Policy

The order of contents was changed. "The Centre has in place a program through which families are able to drop off recyclable products marked with "10c refund at collection depots when sold in SA" at the Centre. These goods are then taken to the recycling depot and any money earned is donated to charity" was removed due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Regulations

National Quality Standards 3

Education and Care Services National Regulations

Sources

Guide to the National Quality Framework February 2020

Planet Ark

Review Date: July 2020

Next Review Date: July 2021