



## Albion Primary School

# SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

This policy was approved in August 2019

### Rationale:

Albion Primary School recognises the importance of providing a safe, secure and sustainable learning environment. We will be proactive in our endeavour to reduce our ecological footprint by managing our waste and resources efficiently and by encouraging biodiversity through the development of our school grounds. We will provide students with opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills, values and world views necessary for them to act in a more sustainable, responsible and environmentally friendly way of living.

### Aims:

- To provide a safe, secure and sustainable school environment.
- To provide opportunities for students to develop worthwhile skills and values relating to our environment locally, nationally and globally.
- To fully utilise community expertise, and to provide opportunities for community involvement in the ongoing development and improvement of our physical environment.
- To promote the adoption of the principles of reduce, reuse and recycle at school and into the wider school community.
- To reduce our energy consumption within the school and use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- To reduce water consumption and promote 'water wise' practises.
- To promote biodiversity through the selection of appropriate plants, environmentally friendly play equipment and the care and upkeep of our chickens.

### Implementation:

- The School will develop, through a process of wide community consultation, a long term strategic plan focussing on the development and enhancement of our school's physical environment.
- Environmental agencies, experts and interest groups will have input into our strategic plan development, and will be utilised at times of specific projects and working bees.
- The strategic plan will be based on principles of sustainability and conservation.
- An **Environment subcommittee of School Council** will be responsible for the implementation of the strategic plan.
- Our strategic plan and its goals will form part of the school curriculum, and will include student involvement in grounds development, projects and maintenance.
- Features of the strategic plan will include the provision of active and passive play areas, adequate shade areas, exciting playgrounds interspersed between gardens and native vegetation, frog pond and sensory/maths area, vegetable garden, outside learning spaces, plus sand spaces.

- Utilise the ResourceSmart program to embed sustainability into the whole school curriculum as well as daily management and operations.

### **Waste**

- Include the whole school community in the process of developing a 'Waste Wise' school through the principles of Rethink/Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.
- **Implement a take in/take home policy.**
- Minimise landfill waste and maximise recycling and composting (e.g. *rubbish free lunches & Waste Free Wednesday*, recycling bins, compost buckets and worm farms).
- Maintain litter-free school grounds.

### **Energy**

- Include the whole school community in the process of developing an 'Energy Efficient' school.
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- Choose the most appropriate energy saving methods available.
- Develop a program that promotes sustainable transport eg. walk-to-school., ride-to-school
- Increase the use of carbon neutral energy sources.

### **Water**

- Appreciate water as a precious natural resource.
- Educate students on water conservation and promote 'water wise' practices.
- Involve the whole school community in the planning of water conservation and storm water quality initiatives.
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
- Choose the most effective means of conserving water (e.g. water tanks for flushing toilets, water containers under taps).

### **Biodiversity**

- Educate students on biodiversity and engage students, staff and the wider community in the process of maintaining our school grounds to ensure the ongoing commitment, involvement and success of our sustainable garden initiatives.
- Encourage an appreciation of the natural environment through learning experiences e.g. curriculum, excursions and school camps.
- Enhance our vegetable garden and connected learning program.
- Continue to increase biodiversity in the school yard in order to support indigenous plants and animals.

### **Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle.

Progress relating to the strategic plan will be annually reported to School Council and the community by the **Grounds and Buildings and Education sub-committees**.

Parent Opinion Survey

Review progress in ResourceSmart program towards 5 star sustainability accreditation.



## Albion Primary School

# PURCHASING – Green Purchasing

This policy was approved in August 2019

### **Rationale:**

Albion Primary School is committed to sustainable practices within its community. We recognise that our daily purchasing decisions have environmental, social and financial impacts both globally and locally. We will endeavour to purchase 'green' products where applicable in order to reduce our environmental impact and make a positive difference.

### **Aims:**

To promote a green purchasing culture throughout the school by considering the financial, social and environmental impact of the goods and services we purchase.

To encourage the sustainable use of resources (Reuse, Recycle, Repurpose) and to reduce our schools negative impact on the environment.

### **Implementation:**

Where practical, anyone purchasing goods or services on behalf of the school will consider a balance of environmental and social factors against price, availability and performance. This includes the consideration of:

- The materials used in manufacture.
- The toxicity of the product or its manufacturing processes.
- Whether it is resource efficient.
- The potential for recycling, reuse or repurposing as well as alternatives to purchasing a replacement product.
- Sourcing local products where possible.
- Whether contractors and consultants will comply with this policy or apply similar green purchasing principles.
- Fair trade designation.

### **Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle.