



# St. Joseph's Primary School

## Environmental Policy

### RATIONALE

St. Joseph's Primary School Merriwa honours its commitment to quality Catholic education through its provision of high quality educational programs by which each child is enabled to reach their full potential. The students are challenged to become lifelong learners with optimism and hope for the future.

(adapted from the school vision statement)

The school environment is one where students learn through the opportunities provided by teachers which increase inquiry learning skills by providing experiences that are meaningful to them, engaging them with actual people, places, events and issues. Students also learn by the lessons which happen around them that are not necessarily planned. For this reason the school needs to be living their beliefs not just teaching them. The daily practices of the school need to be congruent with the teachings.

The environmental message therefore needs to be integrated through all learning areas of the school; the classroom experiences in the various Key Learning Areas and the lived experience of the school community and ultimately the wider community.

*".....the future and well-being of human society and its environment depends upon the quality of people's interactions with each other and with their culture, social and physical environments as they strive to meet each other's needs.*

Human Society and Its Environment Syllabus – October 1998

### AIMS

The aim of Environmental education is to develop in students the values and attitudes, skills, knowledge and understanding that:

- enhance their sense of personal, community, national and global identity
- provide them with an appreciation of our environment and our responsibility for its preservation
- enable them to participate effectively in maintaining and improving the quality of their society and environment.
- the ability to pose and solve problems, using a range of strategies.
- enables them to be forward thinkers with a sense of hope for the future

## IMPLEMENTATION

### PERSONNEL

Class teachers who are responsible for teaching, assessing and writing units of work.  
Community members and parents who have specific skills.  
Hunter –Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority.

### PROCEDURES

The teachers at St Joseph's will be responsible for the planning and implementation of environmental education at St Joseph's Primary school. They will work to ensure the responsible stewardship of our environment is integrated into all areas of the curriculum as well as in the day to day practices of the school.

School practices targeted include but are not limited to:-

- Water
  - Water harvesting with the installation of tanks
  - Water-efficient watering systems and practices
  - Water efficient toilets and bubblers
  - Water watch program participation with CMA
- Energy
  - Energy efficient lighting
  - Turn off the lights when not in use practice
  - Air-conditioning policy that utilizes natural ventilation before artificial cooling
  - Sun block blinds and screens
  - Roof ventilation systems
  - Verandah shading
- Waste
  - Recycling food scraps
    - Worm farm
    - Compost bin
  - Recycling paper and plastics
  - Minimizing use of packaged products, especially foods
  - Participation in Clean Up Australia activities in the local community
  - Participation in Clean Up Australian Schools activities
- Resources
  - Reducing print by increasing e-communications
  - Reusing paper from fax machine
  - Use of environmentally friendly materials in building projects
    - Australian farmed timber rather than cheaper Asian rainforest timbers
- Greening
  - Tree planting program
  - Kitchen garden
  - Veg watch program with CMA
  - National Tree Day participation
  - Earth Hour participation

CSO personnel, parents and community members will be utilised, where possible, to reinforce learning.

Staff will be encouraged to participate in professional development in Environmental issues where opportunities arise.

## RESOURCES

The various KLA Syllabus and support documents will provide the basis of implementation of policy aims.

Units are supported by a range of library titles, both non-fiction and fiction, specifically selected by the teacher.

Appropriate funds will be allocated annually from the school budget to allow for the successful implementation of this policy.

Government and business grants as well as some school funds will be sourced to support the implementation of this policy.

## EVALUATION

This policy will be evaluated every three years by staff, or sooner if the need arises and reviewed at the beginning of each school year.

This policy was initiated in	<b>February 2009</b>
It will be evaluated :	<b>2011</b>