

Sustainability Policy

Policy Statement

CHPS aims to continually be a more environmentally sustainable school - one that provides a vibrant, caring and supportive learning environment, which integrates operations and curriculum that motivates all people in our school community to live more sustainably.

Environmental sustainability is crucial to the health of our eco-system. Children should become aware of the long term effects of their interaction with the environment as well as the challenges faced in establishing an environmental balance. Our children should develop environmentally sound attitudes and habits, and appropriate knowledge. Primary focus will be on reducing waste, reducing resource (especially energy and water) use, and expanding biodiversity.

Croydon Hills Primary School encourages sustainable practices and is committed to minimising the amount of waste sent to landfill by reducing the amount of waste produced in the first place, and recovering much of the resources by recycling and composting.

Rationale

Sustainability Education aims to foster understandings and thereby influence actions and behaviours to make us a more sustainable and environmentally responsible school community.

This is aided by the provision of educational programs, procedures and facilities which support us to reduce our environmental impact.

Implementation

A coordinator will be responsible for:

- overseeing the development and implementation of our Sustainability programs
- keeping the school community informed through regular articles in the newsletter and at assemblies
- working with the Eco leaders to keep them informed and actively involved in our sustainability
- educating and informing the wider school community on sustainable practices e.g. rubbish free lunches

Our objectives are as follows:

1. Energy

- To reduce the costs of energy consumption within our school
- Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible
- Reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions we emit to create a healthier impact on the environment
- Choose the most appropriate energy saving methods available
- Include students in the process of developing an Energy Efficient school
- Promote special days such as ride or walk to school day

2. Waste

- Minimise and recycle our waste as much as possible on a daily basis
- Use both sides of all paper in order to reduce waste
- Encourage a Waste Wise canteen by using recyclable packaging wherever possible
- Maintain a compost heap
- Reduce the amount of paper and cardboard in the school by recycling and reusing
- Reduce the frequency and cost of 'skip' pick-ups
- Encourage rubbish free lunch days
- Use garden waste as mulch
- Include the school community, students and staff in the process of reducing waste
- Recycling of toner cartridges
- Encourage students to explore the impact of actions on the local environment, and how everyone can act sustainably

3. Biodiversity

- Create an environmental haven for students, staff and parents to enjoy
- Choose materials that have less impact on the environment
- Take responsibility for the development of 'School Pride' areas in the grounds
- Include the whole school community in the process of increasing biodiversity in our school
 - vegetable gardens
 - worm farm
 - chickens
 - environmentally aware planting

4. Water

- Reduce the costs of water consumption within our school
- Use resources and facilities as efficiently as possible
- Choose the most effective means of conserving water i.e. having toilets connected to water tanks
- Involve students and staff in the planning of water conservation initiatives
- Rainwater tanks to flush the toilets
- Containers under the drinking taps to collect excess water

Rubbish Free Lunches

We encourage students to:

- Use reusable containers/ biodegradable paper bags for lunches, snacks and brain food e.g. washable plastic containers
- Use reusable lunch order bags/ biodegradable paper bags
- Bring re-usable drink bottles
- Investigate what happens to rubbish after it has left the school bin, and the impact on our environment
- Use litter reduction and management strategies to be able to understand their environmental footprint

Review

As part of the school's cyclic process.

