

Our Lady of Hope Greenwith Campus Outside School Hours Care



POLICY DOCUMENT

SUSTAINABILITY

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BACKGROUND

Environmentally sustainable practices should be embedded into the operations of the education and care service and involve educators, children and families in order to be successful. Children become environmentally responsible and show respect for the environment by engaging in learning experiences, joining in discussions that explore solutions to environmental issues, and watching model sustainable practices.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Our Lady of Hope Greenwith Campus OSHC service acknowledges the importance of integrating sustainable practices to help promote an environmentally aware community. Our Service aims to encourage and increase awareness of environmental responsibilities and implement practices that contribute to a sustainable future.

RELATIONSHIP

Regulations	National Quality Standard	Other policies/Service documentation	Other legislation/Guidelines
Schedule 1	3.3.2 6.1.2	Interactions with Children Cleaning Schedule Maintenance Schedule MTOF School Aged Framework	Education and Care Services National Regulations Energy Efficiency Opportunities Act 2006 Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conversation Act 1999

HOW THE POLICY WILL BE IMPLEMENTED

GOAL

Our Service will ensure the environment is safe, clean and well-maintained. Children's awareness of the environment will be promoted through daily practices, resources and interactions. Sustainable practices will be encouraged within the service. Educators, children and families will be encouraged to become advocates for a sustainable future.

STRATEGIES

The Leadership will:

- Encourage educators, families and children to engage in innovative practices and appreciate the wonder of the natural world while protecting the planet for future generations.
- Ensure the service will liaise with other schools and OSHC services to keep up to date on practices and ideas for sustainability.
- Make sustainable practices a part of daily routine. These include:
 - Recycling
 - Gardening
 - Energy conservation
 - Water conservation
 - Sustainable equipment purchases

- Plan excursions and incursions focussed on sustainable practices, such as NAWMA and KESAB educational programs, visiting the zoo and learning about animals and conservation, visiting wetlands on nature walks, plant a tree day and inviting families and other community members to share their sustainable ideas and practices.
- Use local Council and Government departments as sources of information on sustainable practices used in the local community.

Educators will:

- Role model sustainable practices.
- Share ideas between educators, children and families about sustainable ideas, implementation and resources. This can be done at parent meetings, through emails, newsletters and conversations.
- Engage children in learning about the food cycle by growing, harvesting and cooking.
- Use a composting bin to reduce food waste in the education and care service. Children will be encouraged to place food scraps into separate containers for use in the composting bin. Educators will discuss with the children which scraps can be composted. The children will be involved in maintaining the compost bin.
- Role model energy and water conservation practices by turning off lights and air-conditioning when a room is not in use, emptying water play containers into garden areas.
- Aim to purchase equipment that is eco-friendly where possible. Educators will reduce the amount of plastic and disposable equipment they purchase and select materials that are made of natural materials and fibres.
- Seek to embed sustainable practice in the education and care service. The concepts of “reduce, re-use and recycle” will become part of everyday practice for both children and educators to build lifelong attitudes towards sustainable practices.
- Connect children to nature through art and play and allow children to experience the natural environment through natural materials like wood, stone, sand and recycled materials, plants including native vegetation, gardening tools and watering cans.
- Involve children in nature walks, education about plants and gardening and growing plants and flowers from seeds, bug finding and using natural materials for craft activities.
- Discuss sustainable practices with the children during the yarnning circle and families as part of the services education and care curriculum.
- Acknowledge and celebrate environmental awareness events like Clean Up Australia and Plant a tree day.
- Encourage families to bring in recycled materials to be used as resources.

RESOURCES/REFERENCES

- NSW Department of Environment and Heritage- www.environment.nsw.gov.au
- Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities – www.environment.gov.au
- Community Child Care Co-operative Limited (NSW)
- Early Childhood Environment Education Network – www.eceen.org.au

(Chairperson)

(Date Reviewed)

(Principal)

(Date Reviewed)