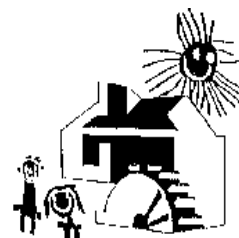


Bridgewater Kindergarten



Sustainability Statement

3/3/17

At Bridgewater Kindergarten we are committed to provide opportunities for our children to develop skills, understandings and values for sustainability and to consider their place in developing a sustainable future.

We aim to actively care for the environment and contribute towards a sustainable future. We believe that working with the children to act sustainably and look for opportunities to find sustainable options will develop positive lifelong attitudes towards the environment and sustainability. We promote a number of sustainable practises in the kindergarten environment and engage the children to respect and care for our environment.

Regularly updating our core indicators using the NRM Education for Sustainability rubric ensures helps educators review where our actions are and how they are moving forward.

Reducing, reusing, recycling.

We aim to reduce waste in the kindergarten through reusing and recycling.

Communications primarily occur through email, SMS and Facebook thus reducing the use of paper.

Families are encouraged to bring recyclable materials to kindy for art, craft, gardening etc.

Children are encouraged to have fewer wrappers in their snack and lunch boxes. We are working towards a "Nude Food" culture. This is also in line with our Healthy Food Policy.

Children sort food rubbish into compostable, recycle or reuse and rubbish. These bins are coloured to match home council pick up bins.

Compostable scraps go into our compost bin for future addition to vegetable gardens and to feed our worms. An Aerobin has been ordered for more efficient composting.

Recyclable rubbish is added to the kindergarten recycling bin or added to art craft materials.

Toner cartridges are recycled. Recycled printing paper is used in the photocopier.

Playground and bushland

We have a large bushland setting, including a second bushland block. Here we support children to develop appreciation and care for our natural environment. Opportunities are planned for and arise spontaneously to explore relationships with living things. Children feel, explore, discover, imagine, create, share, respect and otherwise engage with nature with enthusiastic educators who provide for their learning and development.

Children have worked with educators and parents to create a "Bug House". This is added to regularly to encourage more bugs to move in. Possums sometimes need to be cared for when they fall from their mothers. The Aldgate Veterinary Clinic nurses them back to health.

Educators, children and staff have built a Butterfly Garden and Frog Bog. Children look for butterflies in the butterfly garden and eagerly await for frogs to move into our frog pond. The worms are fed with fruit and veg scraps and “worm juice” is used to fertilise our vegetable gardens. Seasonal vegetables and herbs are planted, harvested and consumed. Bushland experiences are planned for often using environmental kits created by the educators. When trees have fallen due to storms, many of these have been cut into logs for sitting on and using in play. Smaller rounds are used to resource learning activities. One fallen eucalyptus has become a favourite balancing and climbing feature. The natural environment leads to lots of discussions about protecting local species and for biodiversity investigations. We are working to eradicate non- native plants from our bushland.

Sustainable Practises in the Kindergarten

Educators seek ways to embed sustainability and respect for the environment and living things in the programme daily. Caring for our animals- two bearded dragon lizards and two green tree frogs ensures that children embrace caring for nature. We learn songs, read stories and have discussions about sustainable practises and issues.

When purchasing we look for natural and reusable resources where possible.

Throughout the year the curriculum explores environmental issues such as recycling, reusing, creating environments for native animals, planting native plants etc. Children’s learning and engagement is documented and added to our floor book, Sharing Books and Facebook page.

Each child has a hand towel in their locker. This is used to dry hands after washing them. This has allowed us to greatly reduce the use of paper towels. Parents are rostered to wash the hand towels at the end of each week.

Saving Water and Energy

We aim to reduce water and energy usage.

We have installed two rainwater tanks for children to access in sand, mud and water play. Water saving taps have been installed in the children’s bathroom.

We are investigating the installation of motion detecting lights in the store rooms and bathroom.

Our Sunsmart Policy and practises ensure that children wear hats when outside and use sun-screen in intense sun seasons.

Supporters

Natural Resources Management assists us to consider our sustainable practises.

Arbury Park Outdoor School, (Bridgewater) has supported us with equipment, self-propagated plants and educators to explore our environment. An excursion at Arbury Park in 2016 enhanced our sustainability and local environment knowledge.

To be reviewed March 2019