



Adopted:	
Review Date:	September 2019
Signed Governing Council Chair:	
(Governing Council Chair Name)	Claire Mincham-Trowbridge
Signed Director:	
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## Sustainability Policy

### Rationale

We encourage awareness of environmental responsibilities and implement practices that contribute to a sustainable future. Children are supported to become environmentally responsible and show respect for the environment. Sustainability is often thought about in terms of environmental sustainability—reducing waste, minimising consumption and protecting and conserving wildlife and natural habitats.

We aim to ensure the environment is safe, clean and sustainable. We believe in educating children about the environment which is promoted through daily practices, resources and interactions. Sustainable practices will be encouraged within the service assisting children and families to become advocates for a sustainable future.

### Scope

This policy applies to children, families, educators, staff, management and visitors of the Service.

### Implementation

Learning about sustainability starts with everyday practice. We believe environmentally sustainable practices should be embedded into the operations of the Service. Our service is committed to protecting our environment to ensure a sustainable future for our children. This involves educators, children and families working together to protect our environment to ensure a sustainable future.

#### Management will:

- Network with the local community to keep up to date with current practices and ideas for sustainability. This may include water tanks, energy audit, and converting to water saving taps.
- Encourage educators, families and children to engage in innovative practices and appreciate the natural environment.
- In reviewing policies and procedures within the Service we will endeavor to find more sustainable outcomes.
- Where possible electronic communication will be used to reduce paper use throughout KICS.  
Eg newsletters, billing and other communication needs.
- Source resources and materials from second hand stores or donations to use within the Service.
- Provide training on sustainable practices through professional workshops.
- Ensure sustainable practices are incorporated into the daily routine. These will include:

Sustainable Practice	Ideas
Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recycling paper and rubbish</li> <li>- Reuse of shredded paper</li> </ul>
Gardening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Planting vegetables, herbs and fruits</li> <li>- Use of mulch</li> <li>- Use of compost bin</li> <li>- Worm Farm</li> <li>- Give food scraps to worms or the animals</li> <li>- Educating children and have them participate in 'garden to plate' activities. Educating children about seed sprouting, weeding, vegetable gardens, cooking etc.</li> </ul>
Energy Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Turn off lights and switches when not in use</li> </ul>
Water Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Using half flush on the toilet</li> <li>- Turning off the water when not in use</li> <li>- Raising awareness of being water wise</li> <li>- Use of water in troughs on the garden</li> </ul>
Natural Resources & Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Caring for living things</li> <li>- Care of indoor and outdoor plants</li> <li>- Reusing natural materials – trees, blocks, boxes etc</li> <li>- Educating children in the natural decomposition cycle through exposure and participation in worm farms and composting food scraps</li> </ul>

*Educators will:*

- Incorporate recycling as part of everyday practice at the Service. Recycling stations will be provided.
- Role model sustainable practices.
- Discuss sustainable practices with the children and families & local community as part of the program.
- Provide information to families on sustainable practices that are implemented at the Service and encourage the application of these practices in the home environment.
- Use a worm farm/composting bin/ to reduce food waste in the Service. Children will be encouraged to place food scraps into separate containers for use in the worm farm or composting bin. Educators will discuss with the children and families, which scraps worms can eat, which foods can be composted. The children will be involved in maintaining the worm farm and compost bin.
- Role model energy and water conservation practices of turning off lights and air-conditioning when a room is not in use, emptying water play containers onto garden areas.



- Seek to purchase equipment that is environmentally friendly where possible. Educators will reduce the amount of plastic and disposable equipment they purchase and select materials that are made of natural materials.
- Use the concept of “reduce, re-use and recycle” which will become part of everyday practice for both children and educators to build lifelong attitudes towards sustainable practices.

## Sources

The Business of Childcare, Karen Kearns, 2004

Education and Care Services National Regulation, 2018 - <https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/regulation/2011/653>

National Quality Standards - <https://www.acecqa.gov.au/nqf/national-quality-standard>

Early Years Learning Framework - <https://docs.education.gov.au/node/2632>

Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities – [www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au)

Early Childhood Environmental Education Network (ECEEN) - [www.eceen.org.au](http://www.eceen.org.au)

Little Green Steps – [www2.canterbury.nsw.gov.au/LittleGreenSteps/little-green-steps-report.pdf](http://www2.canterbury.nsw.gov.au/LittleGreenSteps/little-green-steps-report.pdf)

## EYLF links

Outcome 2 – Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment.

## Links to other policies and procedures

Sustainability procedure

Water Play policy

## NQS

QA 3	3.1	The design of the facilities is appropriate for the operation of a service.
QA 3	3.2	The service environment is inclusive, promotes competence and supports exploration and play-based learning.
QA 3	3.2.3	The service cares for the environment and supports children to become environmentally responsible.
QA 5	5.2.1	Children are supported to collaborate, learn from and help each other.
QA 6	6.1.1	Families are supported from enrolment to be involved in the service and contribute to service decisions.
QA 6	6.2.3	The service builds relationships and engages with its community.

## Regulations

113	Outdoor space – natural environment
168	Education and care services must have policies and procedures

