



Willunga Preschool

Sustainability policy

At Willunga Preschool we are committed to educate and engage in sustainable practices. We believe that

Sustainability is the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

To support our commitment in providing quality education and care for our families and the wider community, we are dedicated to making decisions and adjustments in everyday practices that conserve natural resources.

Our sustainability goals are to

Take an active role in caring for our environment and contribute to a sustainable future whereby sustainable practices are embedded in our service operations.

Support children to become environmentally responsible and show respect for the environment

As educators we will provide learning experience that

Foster children's capacity to understand and respect the natural environment and the interdependence between people, plants, animals and the land.

Provide spaces that promote the development of life skills, such as growing and preparing food, waste reduction and recycling.

Sustainability is the capacity to improve the quality of human life while living within the carrying capacity of the Earth's supporting eco-systems.

Procedures used to achieve our goals

Reducing waste procedures



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Purchasing and packaging

The Preschool purchases a significant amount of material each year including educational resources, art materials, furniture and food stuffs.

When making purchasing decisions, the following will be considered:

- Need for the item – consider the rationale for having the item, how can it be sourced? Can it be borrowed?

- Recycled content of item and its potential for recycling or end use/disposability

- Bulk buying of items to minimise cost and packaging

- Looking for 'greener options'

- Sharing of resources with other educational centres

- Community involvement – families are encouraged to, where possible, donate resources

- Purchase recycled paper where possible

Recycling

- Have separate bins for food/organic waste, paper and cardboard recycling and general waste to make it easier to correctly dispose of waste into the appropriate council collection bins.

- Explicit teaching for children occurs, on a regular basis, to manage the bins

- A range of recycled materials and resources are collected and used on a daily basis, eg boxes for construction, plastic bowls etc for sandpit and for dramatic play.

- Collage trolley to use a significant amount of recycled items, to try and reduce purchased items.

- Toners and printer cartridges to be recycled





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Organics

Food scraps collected after fruit and lunch times.

Food scraps are given at the end of the session to families who want them for chickens or sheep.

Any uncollected scraps are either put in the worm farm or placed in the green organic waste council bin.

Ongoing learning may include the importance of life cycles and/or mini beasts or creatures in our environment

Litter

Children take home non organic litter from snacks and lunches.

Staff endeavour to reduce the amount of litter they bring into the centre

Waste minimisation

Families have access to the centres Skoolbag app for ongoing centre information, this reduces the amount paper notes printed and distributed.

Printing is done double sided where possible.

Scrap paper is kept and used for notes for staff.

Conservation of energy

Water conservation through the use of rain water tank for children's learning experiences in the outdoor environment and for watering pot plants when possible, timer taps in the children's bathroom, half/full flush in the toilets.

Energy efficiency – turning off lights, air conditioners and heaters when not in use.

We are committed to continual reflection on our practices and to implement improvements.



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