



## SUSTAINABILITY Policy

### Policy Rationale

At John Hartley School B-6 Children's Centre we recognise the importance of our role as a community in promoting awareness and action towards a sustainable future. We recognise that sustainability encompasses **environmental, social** and **economic** dimensions which are intertwined and are necessary for a sustainable world.

Children develop positive attitudes and values about sustainable practices by engaging in learning experiences, joining in discussions that explore solutions to environmental issues, and watching adults' model sustainable practices. Children learn to live interdependently with the environment.

At John Hartley Children's Centre Educators will promote a holistic, open-ended curriculum which explores ideas and practices for environmental, social and economic sustainability, and helps children understand the interdependence between people and the environment by:

- Connecting children to nature, allowing them to experience the environment's natural resources through play (sand, stones, wood, plants, water etc)
- Re-using and/or donating spare clothes that are left at the end of the term/year
- Sourcing recycled and upcycled materials and furniture to enrich loose parts play
- Engaging with community programs such as, Men's Shed, to repair and/or provide resources for children's use
- Reducing the amount of plastic and disposable equipment purchased by selecting materials that are made of natural materials
- Developing educational programs for water conservation, energy efficiency and waste reduction
- Celebrating children's environmental knowledge and sustainable activities
- Actively caring for and respecting the animals borrowed from the Nature Ed Centre
- Looking after the creatures in our environment, and respecting their natural habitats
- Involving children in nature walks, Bush Kindy, education about gardening and growing plants
- Engaging children in learning about the food chain and life cycles
- Partnering with the school and contributing to their waste education programs
- Acknowledging and celebrating environmental awareness events
- Minimising waste by composting food scraps
- Incorporating Indigenous perspectives into the curriculum as a means of teaching children about looking after the land of our traditional custodians

The Role of Educators is to model sustainable practices by embedding sustainability into all aspects of the daily service operations including:



- Recycling materials for curriculum and learning experiences
- Minimising waste and effectively using service resources
- Turning off equipment and lights when not in use
- Composting food scraps
- Establishing and maintaining a vegetable / herb garden
- Children use natural resources provided by nature and found in the environment (leaves, bark)
- Incorporating water-wise strategies such as ensuring taps are used only for certain times, and turned off when not in use
- Using natural lighting as the main source of lighting throughout the day
- Opening doors and windows to allow flow of fresh air
- Using produce grown in our garden for cooking experiences where possible
- Inviting families to donate recycled materials for children's play

### Partnerships with Families and the Community

Our educators will facilitate collaborative partnerships with local community groups, government agencies and private companies to enhance and support children's learning about sustainable practices. Families will be encouraged to participate in decision making and information sharing about environmental sustainability through enrolment processes, face-face conversations, email, Seesaw platform and curriculum documentation.

**CREATED: 2022**

**REVIEWED: 2024**

**TO BE REVIEWED: 2026**

### REFERENCE:

Education and Care and Services National Law Act 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

National Quality Standard / Element (3.2.3)

Early Years Learning Framework V2.0

- Outcome 2 – children are connected with and contribute to their world
- Outcome 3 – children have a strong sense of wellbeing

