



ARDEER SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand this policy, please contact the school Principal or Assistant Principal.

Purpose

To explain to our school community how we plan to take action on climate change by reducing the environmental impact of our operations. The school local policy works in conjunction with The Department's Sustainability Policy, <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/environmental-sustainability-schools/policy>. This policy outlines requirements, advice and support for schools in relation to environmental sustainability and climate change.

Policy

Ardeer South Primary School recognises the importance of becoming a sustainable school for the benefit of the Earth's environmental health. By managing resources efficiently and embedding education and sustainable practices, we will motivate the whole school community to live more sustainably. We honour and draw upon the knowledge of the First Nations people and their relationship with the land. We believe that fostering a positive attitude and appreciation of sustainable environmental practice is vital to the development of our students, will contribute towards the health of our community, and reduce our impact on the Earth.

School sustainability vision and principles

Ardeer South Primary School will work together to inspire our whole school community to make positive contributions to sustainability at school, home and beyond. We aim to reduce our impact on the Earth in order to produce a clean, safe and healthy environment and preserve resources for future generations.

Aims

- To educate our students, and subsequently their families, in responsible energy usage, water efficiency, waste management and environmental awareness
- To protect the environment through a proactive approach to conservation and environmental issues
- To practise resource efficiency
- To increase the biodiversity of the local environment
- To practise effective waste minimisation and management

*This policy is written in consultation with DET Guidelines and from the template in the School Policy Template Portal.

- To reduce resource costs and carbon footprint
- To promote the value of living sustainably
- To achieve and maintain star accreditation status in accordance with the ResourceSmart Schools (RSS) program, led by Sustainability Victoria

Implementation

Sustainability is the responsibility of staff, students, and parents/carers.

The school will:

- ensure curriculum delivery incorporates elements of sustainability at all year levels, in line with the Victorian Curriculum Cross-Curriculum Priority
- establish and support a sustainability team that reports to school governance bodies
- engage in sustainable actions that are promoted through the RSS framework
- lead in best practices in waste management, water and energy usage
- develop and use the school grounds to increase local biodiversity
- use the RSS Framework and RSS Online to monitor the school's progress towards meeting resource saving targets
- develop and maintain a School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP)
- encourage 'green events' (refer to Green Events Policy)
- promote sustainability by reporting achievements to the school and local community
- include 'Sustainability and Environment' as a standing agenda item in the Principal's Report to School Council.

Links and documents related to this policy

- ResourceSmart School Memorandum of Understanding / School Environmental Management Plan / ResourceSmart Schools Online / Sustainability Victoria: www.sustainability.vic.gov.au

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website / Included in staff induction processes and staff training / Hard copy available from school administration upon request

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	May 2024
Approved by	Principal / School Council May 2024
Next scheduled review date	May 2028