

Oak Flats Public School Preschool



Sustainability

Associated National Quality Standards	Education and Care Services National Law or Regulation	Associated department policy, procedure or guideline
<p>1 Educational program and practice 1.1 Program</p> <p>3 Physical environment 3.2 Use</p>	<p>Regulation 73 Educational Program</p> <p>Part 4.7 Governance and Leadership Division 2 Policies and Procedures</p>	<p>Leading and Operating Department Preschool Guidelines</p> <p>Sustainability</p>
<p>Pre-reading and reference documents</p>		
<p>ACECQA - Sustainability in children's education and care ACECQA - Embedding culture in sustainable ways ACECQA - Demystifying sustainability The Australian Association for Environmental Education NSW Early Childhood Environmental Education Network</p>		
<p>Related Preschool Procedures</p>		

- Chickens at the Preschool
- Observations and programming

Introduction

Our goal is to enrich children's knowledge and understanding of the world around them, what our environment provides and how our past and present practices impact the future's sustainability. We aim to provide children with opportunities to:

- experience and connect with nature, to instill the benefits and needs of a sustainable future
- understand the 'need for change' embedded within the practices of children's everyday life
- develop an awareness of the impact of human activity on environments and the interdependence of living things

An environmental sustainability procedure helps educators identify strategies which the children, families and staff can implement to support all members of the school community to engage in sustainable practices and become environmentally responsible.

Staff roles and responsibilities

School principal

The principal as Nominated Supervisor, Educational Leader and Responsible Person holds primary responsibility for the preschool.

The principal is responsible for ensuring:

- the preschool is compliant with legislative standards related to this procedure at all times
- all staff involved in the preschool are familiar with and implement this procedure
- all procedures are current and reviewed as part of a continuous cycle of self- assessment

<p>Preschool supervisor</p>	<p>The preschool supervisor supports the principal in their role and is responsible for leading the review of this procedure through a process of self-assessment and critical reflection. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● analysing complaints, incidents or issues and what the implications are for the updates to this procedure ● reflecting on how this procedure is informed by relevant recognised authorities ● planning and discussing ways to engage with families and communities, including how changes are communicated ● developing strategies to induct all staff when procedures are updated to ensure practice is embedded
<p>Preschool educators</p>	<p>The preschool educators are responsible for working with leadership to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● all staff in the preschool and daily practices comply with this procedure. This includes casuals, lunch and RFF cover, volunteers, and anyone else working in the preschool ● storing this procedure in the preschool, and making it accessible to all staff, families, visitors and volunteers ● being actively involved in the review of this procedure, as required, or at least annually ● ensuring the details of this procedure's review are documented
<p>Procedure</p>	
<p>Educational program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Educational programs embed opportunities to foster children's capacity to understand and respect the interdependence between people, plants, animals and the land ● The preschool promotes perspectives that support the local Aboriginal community's own distinct culture such as understandings of their connection to place. ● Educators demonstrate their commitment to caring for the natural environment by being deliberate, thoughtful and intentional in their actions. ● Open-ended conversations with children foster environmental awareness and responsibility.

- Opportunities are provided for children to be actively engaged in experiences which promote the development of life skills contributing to a sustainable future. These may include:
 - growing, harvesting and preparing fruit and vegetables
 - recycling as part of everyday practice
 - reducing waste production
 - reusing materials
 - repurposing resources, furniture and equipment
 - conserving water and energy.
 - age appropriate environmental and sustainability books
 - discussions including open ended questions
 - concrete learning experiences
 - interactive whiteboard activities
 - caring for chickens and collecting eggs
 - sustainable education programs

**Reducing
our
environmental
footprint**

- At preschool we aim to limit and/or reduce our footprint on the environment by undertaking the following:
 - limiting the use of paper, ink and power by providing information to families via the Kinderloop app, eNews, email and/or Facebook
 - using recycled or upcycled materials for children experiences when possible
 - role modeling sustainable practices
 - using energy and water saving practices
 - limiting the use of reverse cycle air conditioning unit and fans
 - turning off lights when we are outside or away from the preschool
 - using a worm farm
 - placing recycling bins in the preschool
 - using compost bins
 - green cleaning instead of using chemicals where possible
 - conducting science experiments on sustainability
 - using chicken manure for our gardens
 - replacing culled trees/plants with a new native plant
 - keeping our preschool and local community free of rubbish.

- We celebrate significant environmental days. We also recognise that everyday IS:
 - Clean Up Australia Day
 - Earth Hour
 - Recycling Week
 - National Ride to School Day
 - World Water Day
 - Earth Day
 - Aussie Backyard Bird Count
 - National Recycling Week

Record of procedure's review
Date of review and who was involved
09/11/2022 Sarah Beesley
19/06/2023 Alice Wigny, Elisa Higgs, Amanda Falcon, Natalie Shephard & Jodi Niedermayer
Key changes made and reason/s why
Annual update - changes made in response to prompts from the leading and operating department preschools guidelines. Change to new departmental format.
Hyperlinks add for The Australian Association for Environmental Education and NSW Early Childhood Environmental Education Network.
Record of communication of significant changes to relevant stakeholders
Sent to nominated supervisor for review - 10/11/2022 Posted on Kinderloop for family review - 24/11/2022
Sent to Principal for review 4/07/23 Posted on Kinderloop for parent and community input 7/07/23

Copy and paste a new table to record each occasion the procedure is reviewed.