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**WORKNLEARN**

**Sustainability Policy**

# RATIONALE

Worknlearn aims to become a sustainable educational organisation by reducing our ecological footprint through adopting sustainable practises in our everyday lives. We will achieve this by integrating sustainability into all areas of our educational activities and programmes, and instilling a sense of ownership and pride in improving the environment. We will aim to lead the community by demonstrating exemplary practices in waste management, water and energy usage, and develop any property we occupy to promote biodiversity.

# ENERGY

To control energy consumption so that we reduce our impact on the natural environment; avoid unnecessary costs associated with wasting energy; educate students, staff and whole community about the best practice for use of energy consuming equipment and services and to conduct an energy audit and maintain records of energy consumption.

# Guidelines

* Reduce the use of energy consumption within our organisation.
* Use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
* Include students in the process of developing and maintaining an Energy Efficient educational environment.
* Reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions.

# Implementation and Curriculum Focus

* To promote a ‘switch off and save’ policy for electrical equipment, lighting, heating and cooling.
* Students to engage in units of work relating to energy.
* Students will be encouraged to investigate the best ways to conserve energy.

# WASTE

To develop a ‘waste-wise’ ethic within our educational community; to provide and maintain a healthy and aesthetically pleasing learning environment through the reduction of waste and litter; to practise waste wise principles of reduce, reuse and recycle; to reduce the cost of waste and litter management.

# Guidelines

* Minimise rubbish and recycling our waste as much as possible, on a

daily basis.

* Ensure that students take responsibility for disposing of food scraps, paper and rubbish in the appropriate manner.
* Promoting rubbish free lunches and reward those who participate regularly.
* Reducing and eventually eliminating the use of single-use plastics in our centres of activity

# Implementation and Curriculum Focus

* To assign students to dispose of waste and recycled products daily in the appropriate manner.
* For students to dispose of paper into recycling bins.
* Use recycled paper for printers and photocopiers
* Promote the reuse principle of paper in classrooms, staffroom and office.

# BIODIVERSITY

* To be observant and encourage the improvement of our outdoor natural environment
* Wherever possible use natural materials that reduce the impact on the environment.

# WATER

To encourage the reduction of water usage within our organisation; to appreciate water as a precious natural resource; educate the community on ways to reduce water usage indoors and outdoors; conduct a water audit and maintain records of water consumption.

# Guidelines

* To reduce the water consumption within the school.
* To use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible.
* To involve students and staff in the planning of water conservation initiatives.
* To conduct projects where students monitor water usage and report wastage.

# AIMS AND TARGETS

We aim to achieve the following goals and targets over the next three years:

1. To reduce waste by 25%.
2. To reduce water consumption by 20%.
3. To reduce energy consumption by 25%.

# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

We will encourage community participation in environmental projects, as well as invite parents with expertise to help maintain and improve any premises that we occupy now or in the future. We will also promote sustainable living through educating the student community.

# RESPONSIBILITY/ COMMUNICATION

All people within our school will be informed and responsible for implementing these programs. We will appoint a designated Sustainability Co-ordinator who will, in conjunction with the Proprietor, be responsible for keeping records and reporting on the outcomes and progress of any programme that we run through an annual report. Such a report will provide details of the goals, aims, costing, savings and other relevant issues relating to our environmental performance. The report will inform us on the social, economic and environmental impact of our sustainability programme. This will enable us to review and adapt our strategies over time.

# ACTION PLAN

Our sustainable three year plan outlines the four resource modules we will undertake over the next four years; these are ‘Biodiversity’, ‘Waste’, ‘Water’ and ‘Energy’.

# RATIONALE

Worknlearn is committed to sustainable practices within its community. It will endeavour to purchase ‘green products’ in order to reduce its environmental impact.

# PURPOSE

Worknlearn wishes to reduce its ecological footprint and to educate students on making environmentally friendly choices for life.

# GUIDELINES

Where possible, Worknlearn will:

* Purchase 100% recycled paper for printers and photocopiers.
* Set printers to double sided print as default.
* Limit the amount of advertising materials sent home to students.
* Purchase equipment made from recycled materials and furniture when they need to be replaced.
* Source recycled products for book orders.
* Source resources and products from local and ethical businesses.