ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION POLICY

Rationale
CHPS aims to continually be a more environmentally sustainable school - one that provides a vibrant, caring and supportive learning environment, which integrates sustainable operations and a sustainable curriculum and motivates all people in our school community to live more sustainably.

Environmental sustainability is crucial to the health of our ecosystem. Children should become aware of the long term effects of their interaction with the environment as well as the challenges faced in establishing an environmental balance. Our children should develop environmentally sound attitudes and habits, and appropriate knowledge. Primary focus will be on reducing waste, reducing resource (especially energy and water) use, and expanding biodiversity. Croydon Hills Primary School is a sustainable school and is committed to minimising the amount of waste sent to landfill by reducing the amount of waste produced in the first place, and recovering much of the resources by recycling and composting.

Policy Statement
Environmental Education aims to foster understandings and thereby influence actions and behaviours to make us a more environmentally responsible school community.

This is aided by the provision of educational programs, procedures and support facilities, which help us to reduce our environmental impact.

Implementation
A coordinator will be responsible for

- overseeing the development and implementation of our Environmental programs
- keeping the school community informed through regular articles in the newsletter

Our objectives are to:

1. Energy
   - reduce the costs of energy consumption within our school
   - use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible
   - reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions we create to create a healthier impact on the environment
   - choose the most appropriate energy saving methods available
   - include students in the process of developing an Energy Efficient school
   - walk to school day

2. Waste
   - minimize and recycle our waste as much as possible on a daily basis
   - use both sides of all paper in order to reduce waste
   - maintain the Waste Wise canteen by using recyclable packaging wherever possible
   - maintain a compost heap
   - reduce the amount of paper in the school by recycling and reusing it before it gets emptied into the recycle bin
   - reduce the cost of ‘skip’ pick-up
   - rubbish free lunch day
   - recycling of paper and cardboard waste
   - use garden waste as mulch
   - include the students and staff in the process of reducing waste
   - recycling of toner cartridges
   - explore the impact of actions on the local environment, and how everyone can act sustainably
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3. Biodiversity
   - create an environmental haven for students, staff and parents to enjoy
   - choose materials that have less impact on the environment
   - have each team with ownership of an area in the school – School Pride areas
   - include the whole school community in the process of increasing biodiversity in our school
   - vegetable gardens
   - worm farm
   - environmentally aware planting

4. Water
   - reduce the costs of water consumption within our school
   - use resources and equipment as efficiently as possible
   - choose the most effective means of conserving water i.e. having toilets connected to water tanks
   - involve students and staff in the planning of water conservation initiatives
   - installation of rainwater tanks to flush the toilets
   - containers under the drinking taps to collect excess water

Rubbish Free Lunches  We encourage students to:

   - use reusable containers for lunches, snacks and brain food e.g. Washable plastic containers, zip-top lunch bags which can be used more than once, margarine or butter containers
   - use reusable lunch order bags
   - bring re-usable drink bottles.
   - investigate what happens to rubbish after it has left the school bin, and the impact on our environment
   - learn litter reduction and management skills and about their environmental footprint, to help shape behaviour.
   - Act responsibly in an area where they can exercise control – acting locally to make a difference.

Environment Education is included in our curriculum through

Education about the environment, which focuses on key knowledge and understanding of the ecological functioning of the environment. This is located primarily within the Interdisciplinary Learning VELS domains.

Education in the environment. This provides for students to experience the environment and to develop positive attitudes and values toward environmental responsibility. Opportunities for education in the environment are found especially in the Integrated Curriculum, Developmental Learning and Health and Physical Education.

Education for the environment, which focuses on students taking action for the protection or conservation of the environment. This includes the development of skills to enable students to be active and informed participants in environmental decision-making policy. This is located primarily in the Physical, Personal and Social Learning VELS domains.

Level 1: Zoo excursion
Level 2: Developmental Learning activities
Level 3: Wetlands CERES
Level 4: Natural Disasters, Aquatic Biomes

Additionally, there are opportunities for further Environment Education through the CHPS Sustainability and Leadership programs, specialising in Environmental Responsibility in the areas of Waste, Water, Energy and Bio-diversity. These opportunities allow for the school community to encourage responsible behaviour within the school, and through the wider community and communicate the importance of these issues.

Evaluation and Review
Usage patterns through SETS bills data (Schools Environment Tracking System) Annually, term 3, to identify patterns of usage and areas of potential improvement.
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Yard rubbish audit. On-going, with classes encouraged to take on related measurement activities, and maintain their “School Pride” Yard area.

Waste checklists to ensure compliance with good waste management and recycling practices in the school.

References