



## College Operation Guidelines

### Sustainability and Waste

#### Rationale

As a society, Australia is now seeing the devastating impact of our wasteful practices on the environment. It is important for now and the future that young people are taught specific skills on how to minimise their waste and learn to Rethink, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Reduce being the most crucial of these.

Sustainable patterns of living meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Actions to improve sustainability are both individual and collective endeavours shared across local and global communities. They necessitate a renewed and balanced approach to the way humans interact with each other and the environment.

Education for sustainability develops the knowledge, skills, values and world views necessary for people to act in ways that contribute to more sustainable patterns of living. It enables individuals and communities to reflect on ways of interpreting and engaging with the world. Sustainability education is futures-oriented, focusing on protecting environments and creating a more ecologically and socially just world through informed action. Actions that support more sustainable patterns of living require consideration of environmental, social, cultural and economic systems and their interdependence. <http://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/home/p-10-curriculum/cross-curriculum-priorities2/sustainability>

It is important that all members of the College community are educated about good environmental practices in order to adhere to the College core value of We will show respect, compassion and service to others in this case showing respect and compassion to our environment and service to the wider community.

Within Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si, he calls for the following action within the environment.

- Calls for “personal and communal” conversion away from consumerism and “collective selfishness,” and invites persons toward lifestyles
- animated by sound ecological virtues, i.e., “good habits,” that must be developed in persons by both secular and faith communities (#202-215).
- Points out “consumer movements” like boycotts “prove successful in changing the way businesses operate, forcing them to consider their
- environmental footprint and their patterns of production” (#206).
- Argues that “ecological education” – which should provide information and seek to form habits – must occur everywhere in society: “at

- school, in families, in the media, in catechesis ... political institutions and various other social groups ... [and all] Christian communities”
- (#213- 214).
- Reminds Christians that Sacraments and the Sabbath are essential to right relationship with creation (#233-237).
- Reflects on the relationships of the Trinity, Mary and Joseph to creation, and concludes with “a prayer for our earth” and “a Christian prayer in union with creation” (#238-246).

## **Principles**

Principles of this policy are:

- To reduce the amount of waste the College sends to landfill.
- To reduce the College’s carbon footprint in the areas of energy, transport and increase the amount of recycling and resource recovery.
- Teach students skills on how to rethink, reduce, reuse and recycle in the College, in the home and wider communities.
- Encourage a whole community participation (students, teachers, non-teaching staff and family members) in waste wise practices.
- To conduct a yearly waste audit to assess the successes and evaluate the projects.
- Encourage environmentally friendly choices to be made in College products.

## **Procedure**

### College events – Minimise waste

All College events, as well as the College Canteen, should encourage recycling and waste management and waste reduction. Rubbish bins and recycling bins should be available at all College events with encouragement for them to be used. The number of cans sold for fundraising and the number of cans recycled should be recorded for data analysis. This can be used to help with the success of our recycling programs and assist with applications for grants and funding for further projects.

Plastic water bottles and plastic cups should not be used where possible. All members of the College community should be encouraged to bring reusable water bottles and facilities to refill these water bottles should be the emphasis rather than providing plastic water bottles.

When the SPACE is hired out for an event, the College staff member attached to the event, is responsible for making sure that a recycling bin is available in the SPACE and then emptied the following day and returned to its normal venue.

### Co-Mingled Recycling

The College has a large co-mingled skip bin provided by Cleanaway. Each classroom has a recycling bin that is the responsibility of the Pastoral Care Group’s to empty each Thursday morning into the 240L bin closest to them (see list below). These bins will be emptied by the ground staff before the Friday morning pick up into the skip bin.

- Science Block corridor (would also serve HASS)
- RE Office
- H Block Prep area
- Maths/Arts Office

- C Block Corridor
- T Block Corridor
- A lockable bin in Admin
- Stairwell photocopier area
- Library (to be later moved into the A Block office when it changes into the Chapel).
- English Office
- Visual Arts Office

All classrooms will have the new bins system – one red and one yellow topped bin. Each bin is labelled with instructions on what should be included in the recycle bins and what should be excluded. Some offices have their own recycling bins (Health and PE and S-Block Office) for which staff are responsible for emptying. PLEASE NOTE: Ground staff are to be contacted if the bins are getting too full before Thursday as it is a work health and safety risk to lift bins that are too heavy into the skip.

Other recycling programs include: battery recycling, bread tags, bottle tops, printer and toner, aerosol cans and mobile phone. Members of our Community are encouraged to use these as a drop off facility to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

### Curriculum

One of the Cross Curricular priorities for the Western Australian Curriculum is sustainability which addresses the ongoing capacity of the Earth to maintain all life. This should be addressed across the board in curriculum. The College should encourage cross curricular projects that encourage the themes of sustainability and Environmental Education. Different learning areas should be encouraged to use the resources of those learning areas that cover this topic on a regular basis – for examples Science, HASS, Design Technology and Outdoor Education.

### Student and local community activities

Students can be involved in Environmental Education through a number of areas in the College:

- Bush Rangers Unit
- Enviro Club
- Emmanuel Environmental Leadership Squad (EELS)
- Curriculum offerings
- Christian Service
- Daily College interactions within our environment and classrooms

The College will continue to involve itself in community activities such as tree planting, clean up days and work on specific Environmental Projects, encouraging students to spread the message they have learnt in the College will also be key. Documentation of these events through photographs and data is key to make sure that the College is continuing to decrease its carbon footprint. The 303 solar panels installed on the SPACE roof in 2020 will significantly reduce our carbon footprint.

### Governance

The responsibility of the Sustainability and Waste Policy falls to all members of the College

Community. However, the Director of Environmental Education will be responsible for assisting with the implementation and revision of the policy. Assistance will also be provided at a student level by the Environmental Captain and EELS. EELS will be called upon to assist with waste management at College events. The Business Manager and Grounds Manager will also be assisting with infrastructure and outside services.

### **References**

Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si

SCSA Sustainability Cross Curriculum Priorities

<http://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/home/p-10-curriculum/cross-curriculum-priorities2/sustainability>