

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION DOCUMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Rationale

Environmental education is based on the principle of conservation for sustainable development. This involves managing our heritage and natural resources so that they continue to support life.

Through environmental education students can acquire appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes to help them form their own judgements about socially and environmentally responsible lifestyles and to participate in environmental decision making.

Department Policy

The current DET Environmental Education Policy addresses the following focus areas:

- Curriculum
- Management of Resources
- Management of School Grounds

Curriculum

Students will develop:

Knowledge and understanding about:

- The nature and function of ecosystems and how they are related
- The impact of people on environments
- The role of the community, politics and market forces in environmental decision making
- The principles of ecologically sustainable development
- Career opportunities associated with the environment

Skills in:

- Applying technical expertise within an environmental context
- Identifying and assessing environmental problems
- Communicating environmental problems to others
- Resolving environmental problems
- Adopting behaviours and practices that protect the environment
- Evaluating the success of their actions

Values and attitudes relating to:

- A respect for life on Earth
- An appreciation of their cultural heritage
- A commitment to act for the environment by supporting long term solutions to environmental problems

Management of Resources

Schools will:

- Take a wholeschool approach to policy development to include such environmental aspects as purchasing, energy monitoring, water consumption and waste disposal
- Employ best practice in management of resources and
- Identify learning opportunities for students resulting from practices in the management of resources

Management of School Grounds

Schools will:

- Manage school grounds in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development
- Develop school grounds as part of the overall school plan
- Identify learning opportunities for students resulting from the management of school grounds

Implementation:

CURRICULUM

Kariong Mountains High School, through the various key learning areas, will:

- Identify and address those outcomes that are specific to environmental education in all Syllabuses
- Integrate the teaching of environmental education topics into their teaching programs
- Use special events and school community actions to enhance student learning outcomes related to environmental education.

MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES

Kariong Mountains High School will:

- Address the management of energy, products, materials, waste and water
- Employ best practice in the sustainable management of resources and comply with Government
- Legislation such as Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy (WRAPP), storm water legislation and the Litter Prevention Program
- Maximise learning opportunities created by the school's management of resources to make links to the curriculum.

MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL GROUNDS

Kariong Mountains High School will:

- Use and develop the school grounds and buildings to enhance and achieve the objectives of the environmental education policy
- Use the school grounds and buildings as learning areas.

The School Environment Management Plan (SEMP)

The School Environment Management Plan (SEMP) guides the direction and priorities of the school's environmental focus. It serves as the guiding document to embrace the key areas of Litter in the Playground, School Grounds, Water Usage, Paper Use and Electricity Usage.

The key goals of the Kariong Mountains High School SEMP are:

Curriculum. Develop an Environmental Studies unit that integrates KLA focus areas in environmental education. Work with Mt Penang Gardens to raise awareness of garden habitats and design

Resource management. Discuss with students and staff ways of minimising environmental impact and audit usage over the year to determine where habits are effective and where change is needed

Grounds management. Ensure sustainability of newly established gardens and grassed areas. Develop 'bush tucker' gardens and 'kitchen gardens' to support TAS studies

Whole school planning. Enhance student ownership of school grounds and the surrounding environment through education and participation. Incorporate SEMP and its targets into the annual school plan of each faculty

School community participation. develop strong school relationships with local aboriginal community bodies consulting on key cultural, environmental and ecological issues. Participate in local and national environmental awareness campaigns eg. National Tree Day, Clean Up Australia

Day, Earth Hour. Partnership with university, TAFE and local horticulture industries to raise awareness and develop career pathways. Support and collaborate with our school's P&C and the PPP consortium in regards to maintaining and strengthening Kariong Mountains High School's sustainability.