



# St. Martin de Porres School

Avondale Heights

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

### RATIONALE

In 2013, the city of Moonee Valley distributed its aspirational sustainability statement of being “ a city that is clean, green and beautiful, vibrant, diverse and sustainable that people experience as friendly and safe to live in.” It enhanced this further in 2018 in its MV40 strategy of advocating living in a city where we are not just surviving, we are thriving. They further contended that the following are the building blocks of our healthy city:

- A **fair** city that values diversity, where everyone feels safe, is included, is healthy and has access to services and housing.
- A **thriving** city with access to jobs, lifelong learning, vibrant and dynamic activity centres.
- A **connected** city of accessible, active and sustainable transport choices.
- A **green** city that is ecologically healthy and environmentally responsible.
- A **beautiful** city that celebrates its identity, heritage and open spaces.

St. Martin de Porres school supports these building blocks as the basis for its own environmental sustainability direction, which is also supported in its own vision, that “we encourage each member...to become active citizens responsive to the emerging challenges of our community, our nation and our planet.”

With the now well-known effects of global warming on the wellbeing of our planet and its inhabitants, the school community of St. Martin de Porres wishes to contribute to the reversal of any such trends which threaten our environment and wellbeing.

The school community has most recently initiated health and well being practices which recognise that learning and teaching will be most effective when the community of learners is in itself physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually as healthy as possible. The school's commitment to 'Project Thrive', an initiative through the North West Catholic Principals' Network, and 'Kidskills' is a testament to a commitment to healthy living and environmental sustainability.

The school community now also wishes to operate in a manner that maintains biodiversity, minimises its impact on the natural environment, and where possible, reduce the consumption of energy and water.

The sustainable management of the school's facilities and grounds should benefit students by redirecting waste expenses to resources that can positively benefit student, staff and family wellbeing. A focus on waste and pollution reduction, green purchasing, biodiversity, enhancing the school's grounds and natural shade and cooling, should improve student connectedness and engagement with nature and provide homes to birds, insects etc.

This policy will apply to all school operations, extracurricula activities (e.g. fetes, sports carnivals, P & F activities) and other community users (e.g. sporting clubs, parish groups and Out of School Hours Care providers) of the School's facilities and grounds.

### DEFINITIONS

- ◆ **Biodiversity** – the variety of plant and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat.
- ◆ **Environment** – the natural environment that encompasses all living and non-living things occurring naturally.
- ◆ **Green Purchasing** – the procurement of products and services that have a reduced effect on human health and the natural environment.
- ◆ **Sustainability** – the avoidance of the depletion of natural resources in order to maintain an ecological balance.

## **GOALS**

### **In collaboration with the parents, students and staff :**

- develop a waste minimisation strategy by using recycling bins more effectively, composting all food scraps and implementing 'nude food' lunches on a regular basis;
- minimise paper usage by going 'paperless', reducing the use of hard copy classroom worksheets and ensuring printing is double sided as much as possible;
- safely and responsibly dispose of electronic waste via accredited recycling facilities;
- encourage the efficient use of lighting, heating, cooling and all other electrical equipment;
- maintain a grounds plan to enhance school grounds biodiversity (such as indigenous trees and shrubs, foliage and wildlife) and its beauty and sensory value;
- nurture and protect established trees and actively replace and expand tree numbers over time;
- conserve water and promote the use of re-usable water-bottles, discouraging the purchase and use of retail water bottles;
- introduce 'green purchasing' procedures to make environmental friendly choices, promote the use of reusable products, recycled content, bio-degradable cleansing;

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

Whole school community commitment to :

1. The attached 'Wipe Out Waste' (WoW) strategic plan for waste minimisation from June 2019 onwards. (Attachment 1)
2. Minimising paper usage by teachers and ESOs by more regularly using digital activity sheets and double sided hard copies.
3. A quota system for all staff usage of the administration copier.
4. Sourcing of an accredited recycling facility to distribute electronic waste.
5. Enactment of the Playground and Gardens Masterplan. (Attachment 2)
6. Consideration of a ban on retail water bottle purchasing by the school and its entities.
7. Continued management of the school's re-cycled water supplies.
8. Expansion of the school's purchase of 'green' products. (e.g. bio-degradable rubbish bags, environmentally friendly cleaning products, effective and efficient compost bins.)
9. Ensuring all powered items in the school are turned off on a Friday afternoon by 3.45pm and at the beginning of each Term break.
10. Maintenance of recycled water flushing, dual flush cisterns and other conservation initiatives in the student and staff toilet facilities.

## **ASSESSMENT & REPORTING**

Assessment and reporting to the school community of the school's achievement related to the waste minimisation strategic plan targets within six months.

## **EVALUATION**

*Policy developed in June 2019, to be reviewed annually*

# Strategic Plan – St Martin de Porres Primary School

## ‘Wipe Out Waste’ – Moonee Valley Council initiative

WoW coordinator: Kelly Bertoncetto and Belinda Attard (30 May, 2019)

<b>Project Name:</b> <i>‘Wipe Out Waste’</i>		<b>Purpose</b> <i>To wipe out waste in our school through the integration of the school's waste operations and curriculum and by engaging the whole school community.</i>	
<b>GOALS</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	<b>STRATEGIES</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>
1. Reduce the litter in the classroom and yard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce school litter in the yard by 25% by end of Term 4 2019</li> <li>Reduce school litter in the yard by 50% by end of Term 4 2020</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular litter counts</li> <li>Student committee involved in litter gathering</li> <li>Education program about litter (e.g. where litter goes)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SRC students conduct litter audits once a month</li> <li>Develop student waste leadership team.</li> <li>Communicate results to staff and students at assembly</li> <li>Regular newsletter items</li> <li>Litter games/incentives</li> <li>Fun activities!</li> </ul>
2. Reduce the total amount of waste produced by the school, including landfill and recycling.	<p><b>Whole school</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the rubbish to landfill by 50% by the end of Term 4 2019</li> <li>Reduce the rubbish to landfill by 75% by the end of Term 4 2020</li> </ul> <p><b>Office</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the amount of paper used by the office by 25% by Term 4 2019</li> </ul> <p><b>Classroom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the amount of paper used in the classroom by 25% by Term 4 2019</li> </ul> <p><b>Canteen</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the amount of paper used for lunch ordering by 50% by Term 4 2019</li> <li>Reduce the amount of paper used for lunch ordering by 75% by Term 4 2020</li> <li>50% participation of BYO container by Term 4 2019</li> </ul>	<p><b>Whole school</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular skip volume estimate (how full is the bin?) once month</li> <li>Food waste reduction for staff and students -planning term 2, 2019 -implementing term 3,2019</li> <li>School waste and litter minimisation/sustainability policy</li> </ul> <p><b>Office &amp; Classroom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paper reduction plan</li> <li>Communicate to staff about waste and litter issues and costs of waste disposal/photocopying and paper costs to the school</li> </ul> <p><b>Canteen</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate introducing an online payment and ordering system</li> <li>Develop a BYO container system</li> </ul>	<p><b>Whole school</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designated teacher (Mr Park) to supervise students on collection of skip volumes</li> <li>Develop a Sustainability policy</li> <li>Inform the school community about the Waste Issues at school and introduce the new sustainability policy</li> <li>Educating families about better packaging of food, appropriate portion sizes, healthier food choices etc</li> </ul> <p><b>Office &amp; Classroom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use suggestions in Ideas in ‘Wipe out Waste’ handout (Cutting your paper waste)</li> <li>Build a business case that reducing paper usage will save money. (Savings could go to waste and gardening programs) find out the total photocopy paper cost, plus lease cost, plus electricity</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Staggered printing limits</li> <li>- Introduce a composting system for staffroom and student food waste</li> <li>- Introduce Nude Food for those willing and able to participate</li> </ul> <p><b>Canteen</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introducing an online payment and ordering system</li> <li>- Educate and encourage families to provide their own labelled container for lunch orders</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Educate students and staff about waste sorting ie. what goes into a recycling bin, compost, landfill bin and red cycle bin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Involve SRC with education of students via the use of posters and presentations</li> <li>- Educate families via newsletter</li> <li>- Provide bins for red cycle</li> <li>- Compost bins/system for staff and students</li> <li>- Label yellow bins - separate recyclables (paper, cardboard, hard plastics)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduce level of contamination of recycling bin by 50% by the end of Term 4 2019</li> <li>- Divert soft plastics from landfill</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Visit and learn from other schools</li> <li>- Explore curriculum resources on waste and litter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Investigate the curriculum resources of Gould League, Cool Australia, ABC Splash, CERES and Cool Australia</li> <li>- Add suggestions for waste and litter for each inquiry/integrated learning unit</li> <li>- Develop ideas for all Year levels to implement a Wipe Out Waste project</li> <li>- Invite guest speakers from council to speak about waste</li> </ul>
3. Improve waste sorting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Include waste and litter topics into Inquiry learning units in <i>Year 5 and 6</i> by the end of Term 4 2019</li> <li>- Include waste and litter topics into Inquiry learning units at every year level by the end of Term 4 2020</li> </ul>		
4. Integrate WoW into the school curriculum			
<b>EXTRA NOTES:</b>			



**LOCALITY PLAN** NOT TO SCALE



**REFERENCE IMAGES**

**SCHEDULE**

1. REFLECTION GARDEN 1 & 2
2. REFLECTION GARDEN 3
3. OUTDOOR LEARNING SPACE 1
4. OUTDOOR LEARNING SPACE 2
5. ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND
6. PROPOSED PATH
7. BASKETBALL KEY OPTION 1
8. BASKETBALL KEY OPTION 2
9. BASKETBALL KEY OPTION 3

**PROPOSED MASTER PLAN 001** SCALE 1:250 @ A2 APPROXIMATE

CONCEPT ONLY FOR DISCUSSION & APPROVAL

