

Westfields Sports Policies & Procedures



Environmental Education

Environmental education is a life long multi-disciplinary approach to learning that helps people to understand and appreciate the environment and their connection to and impact on it.

The Westfields Sports' Environmental Education Team is comprised chiefly of staff, students, parents and community representatives and works collaboratively with the school's senior executive to secure a better quality of life for present and future generations.

Rationale:

Complex changes to the world's natural systems are occurring locally, regionally and globally. Agenda 21, the global initiative drawn up at the United Nations Earth Summit 1992, provides a policy framework for international action on the environment. Underlying Agenda 21 is the principle of ecologically sustainable development. This relates to those human activities that compromise a balance between economical, environmental and social forces. Through Environmental Education students acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes that enable them to form judgements about sustainable lifestyles and to participate in environmental decision making.

Aim of Environmental Education:

- Foster students' understanding of the environment as an integrated system.
- Develop attitudes and skills which are conducive to the achievement of ecologically sustainable development.

Learning Opportunities Supporting the Curriculum:

Students at Westfields Sports 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:

Westfields Sports High School will:

- take a whole school 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:

Westfields Sports High School 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:

Westfields Sports High School, through the various key learning areas will:

- identify and address those outcomes that are specific to environmental education in all Syllabi
- 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 Schools:

Westfields Sports 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:

Westfields Sports High School will:

- use and develop the school grounds and buildings to enhance and achieve the objectives of the environmental education policy and Westfields Sports High School Policy
- use the school grounds and buildings as learning areas
- identify and implement long term strategies that will rehabilitate areas of the school grounds and buildings and reflect best practice in sustainable management.

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 Westfields Sports High School SEMP are:

1. Curriculum

Expand upon environmental links within Key Learning Areas to a whole school cross curricular focus.

2. Resource Management

Reduce electricity consumption by 2% each year, expanding our shared air conditioning and heating policies in major buildings. Expand and enhance water tank usage across the school grounds, Continue and enhance recycling program.

3. Grounds Management

Consolidate and ensure sustainability of newly established gardens and grassed areas. Expand and develop our outdoor learning areas within the school grounds .

4. 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.

5. School Community Participation

Consulting on key cultural, environmental and ecological issues. Increased school involvement in local and national environmental awareness campaigns eg. National Tree Day, Clean Up Australia Day, Earth Hour.

Support and collaborate with our school's P&C association in regards to maintaining and strengthening Westfields Sports High School's sustainability.

Current Programs and Initiatives

Westfields Sports High School has maximised aspects of the school community through programs and initiatives such as:

- Recycling phones and donating funds raised to Empower for their work in Malawi and Sri Lanka.
- Battery drive. This program involves collecting old batteries to donate to Aldi, for their battery drive.
- Implementation of recycling bins in every classroom in the school.
- The Enviro Forum at Taronga Zoo. This forum encourages students and staff to take positive action, make change and to spread the message to the school.
- Cool Australia's Enviro Week. Cool Australia's Enviroweek aims at raising environmental sustainability awareness at school.
- Signs have been placed in every classroom advising staff and students to vigilant in energy saving measures eg. turning off lights, fans, air-conditioning units etc.