



Girraween Primary School

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

PERSONAL BEST

RESPONSIBILITY

CARE

RESPECT

FAIRNESS

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Girraween Primary School Sustainability Policy

Background

Girraween Primary School has been proactive in instigating environmental education into its school values. The school has vegetable gardens, fruit trees, a greenhouse and chickens and goats on our farm. The sustainability teacher runs projects across the school, giving students ownership of these areas and the various sustainability-based projects and programs. We have been recognised as leaders in this field and have received several awards, including Melaleuca Awards in 2010 and 2011, Department of Education Community Engagement Award in 2012, the Junior Landcare Award in 2013, and prizes from the Fred's Pass Rural Show for our school farm. We are registered as an 'Eco School' under the Eco Schools Program run by Keep Australia Beautiful.

Objective

Sustainability is a cross-curriculum priority in the Australian Curriculum. It can be taught through all of the curriculum-based learning areas. At Girraween Primary School, we strongly believe in the need to teach students to be global citizens and to care for the environment. We do this through 'Our World' lessons, sustainability projects and ongoing actions, e.g. composting, popper, paper and cardboard recycling, and our annual sustainability-based Field Day.

At Girraween Primary School, we aim to:

- bring sustainability-based concepts to life through opportunities to engage in inquiry-based learning through hands-on experiences;
- provide students with opportunities to learn about the environment outside of the classroom through farm and garden projects and exploring the local area; and
- develop global citizenship through engaging students as custodians of the environment whose actions make a difference.

Implementation

Sustainability based learning, project and programs will be developed to implement this policy and achieve its objectives as outlined in the next paragraphs.

Students:

Are engaged in sustainability actions through:

- specialist programs;
- class programs;
- farm and vegetable garden projects;
- 'Green Team': a club where students apply for positions and work on projects around the farm and whole school sustainability priorities;
- recycling drives such as popper recycling, paper & cardboard recycling and composting; and
- projects shared at Field Day, which is Girraween Primary School's annual school open day.

Grounds

In 2023, the Girraween School Council voted to continue employing a farm hand to help run the farm and gardens. This arrangement will be reviewed annually and depend on school and fundraising funds available.

The school council supports our sustainability program by:

- organising regular working bees in the farm and greenhouse
- budgeting for the ongoing maintenance of sustainability programs and projects
- assisting in the coordination of the annual Field Day

Vegetable garden

- The farm hand and sustainability teacher oversee the setup of the vegetable garden ready for planting by students.
- Classes may take on responsibility for sections of the school vegetable garden.
- Profits from school garden produce and value-added products are fed back into the garden and animal programs.
- Department of Education's planting guidelines are followed (e.g. avoiding plant species not to be planted in schools).

Animals

A group of skilled parents and teachers oversee the animals who live at Girraween Primary School.

- The weigh book record is completed for all hooved animals on the farm.
- Risk management for each animal species is conducted annually.
- All interactions with animals are conducted with animal welfare as the highest priority.
- Animal shelters are maintained to a high standard.

Classroom projects

All classroom teachers take responsibility for a sustainability project each year. This is embedded in inquiry units of work and may be ongoing throughout the year, usually displayed at our Field Day in Term 3 each year.

Recycling

We encourage recycling of:

- poppers and cans – collected and taken to the recycling depot with profits being put back into the farm
- food scraps – for composting, worm farms and the chickens
- paper & cardboard – through shredding and in CSR recycling bins
- plastic lids - recycled by preschool
- anything at all for craft.

Approved by Girraween Primary School Council: 2023

Review due: 2025