

# Policies



## Waste Minimisation Policy

**Status:** Review,  
**Date:** October, 2016.

### Rationale:

Our vision is to engage students, staff and the community in using strategies that reduce waste to benefit the school financially and environmentally. Students will be given the opportunity to develop sustainable attitudes and habits to enhance their knowledge on waste.

### Aims:

- To encourage and maintain waste minimisation practices school wide.
- To ensure that a minimum amount of waste goes to landfill.
- To teach children sustainable attitudes and habits so they can practice these at home, at school and in the community.

### Guidelines:

- The whole school community is responsible for the cleanliness and attractiveness of the buildings and grounds.
- Communication will be ongoing with Shire of Yarra Ranges, other sustainable schools and environmental groups to investigate further reduction of waste.
- Consideration will be given to the OHS guidelines and health issues involved in cleaning our school environment.
- The strategies of waste minimisation and litter reduction – reduce, reuse and recycle will be incorporated in everyday activities.

### Implementation:

- Students will be familiarised with the Waste Minimisation practices in classrooms during the “Building a Collaborative Learning Community” unit held in the first 7 or 8 days of the new school year.
- Clearly labelled bins will be provided for sorted rubbish, for example, rubbish to landfill and recyclable materials for curb side collection. Teachers and students will monitor their classroom bins to ensure rubbish is sorted correctly.
- Staff, students and parents will work cooperatively with the school canteen to reduce waste.
- The canteen will continue selling “Munch” lunch order bags.
- Staff, students and parents will recycle products where possible.
- Children will be properly briefed by staff on safe procedures to collect rubbish.
- Children are to be supervised during pick-up sessions by teachers.
- Children will be provided with tongs and several buckets for cleaning up our school environment.
- Cleaning up glass will only be done by adults and with tongs.
- Children should report to staff if potentially contaminated or dangerous items are found and staff will arrange safe removal.
- Waste monitoring and audits will be updated regularly.
- Email and whiteboards are to be used where possible, in place of photocopying.
- Worm farms, composting, paper recycling, pruning and green waste are to be encouraged.
- Rubbish Free Lunch Days will continue in order to remind students about reducing waste.
- Students will take all rubbish from their lunchboxes back home for sorting and recycling.
- Students will unwrap food items before taking them outside to finish eating.
- After purchasing items from the canteen, students will remain in the undercover area until they have finished eating and place their rubbish in the bin provided.
- Assembly presentations, awards, and items in the newsletters and on social media will communicate activities and successes.
- The purchase of recycled products such as playground seats and tables, recycled paper, recycled toilet paper, recycled paper towel, recycled ink cartridges and other ‘green’ services are to be considered as a priority where possible.

### Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three- year cycle.

### References:

- <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/infrastructure/Pages/environment.aspx>  
<http://www.ceres.org.au/>  
<http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/Services-and-Advice/Schools>