



# ALDGATE KINDERGARTEN

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## SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

This policy has been developed to clarify and strengthen the current procedures and practices that reflect the Kindergarten's commitment to environmental sustainability. The Site Environment Management Plan (SEMP) will document and track site priorities and actions to improve sustainability practices.

### **Purchasing and packaging**

When making purchasing decisions the following will be considered:

- Necessity for the item (can we use something we already have instead?)
- Recycled content of item and its packaging, and whether it can be recycled at the end of its usage.
- Ongoing maintenance – can it be repaired/refilled? (e.g. toner, cartridges, soap dispensers)
- Can it be purchased in bulk?

### **Printing**

- We think before we print.
- Families are asked to opt-in to receive hard copies of communications – the preferred method of correspondence is email and the Seesaw app.

### **Recycling and reusing**

- Staff and children will recycle and reuse resources wherever possible e.g. used toner cartridges and batteries will be recycled. Rechargeable batteries will be used wherever possible.
- Recycled materials will be repurposed and reused – boxes, magazines, lids, paper, wood, yogurt tubs, dress ups, sandpit adjuncts, old phones/cameras for dramatic play props etc.
- Colour-coded bins will be used to make it easier for everyone to successfully sort waste into recycling or landfill. Children will be explicitly taught where to dispose of their waste.
- Nude food will be encouraged.

### **Organics**

- A compost bucket and worm farm will be used to recycle appropriate food scraps.
- All other compostable waste will be placed in school compostable waste bin.
- Kindergarten children will be supported to undertake compost audits to check for accidental disposal of non-compostable items.

### **Water**

- Three rainwater tanks collect water from our gutters. The water will be primarily used for watering plants and in water/sandpit play. Adult monitoring of water usage will be undertaken and children will be educated about limiting water usage.
- Timer taps in the children's bathroom minimise water usage.
- Cleaning products will be environmentally friendly/free of known harmful chemicals to protect staff and children's health, and contribute to healthy water catchments.

### **Energy**

- The electric heater/air-conditioner will be set at a comfortable temperature rather than excessive heating or cooling.
- Computers and appliances will be turned off at the wall when not in use, particularly weekends and holidays.

### **Biodiversity**

- We have made a commitment to support the regeneration of the adjoining "Kindy Wirra" bush land habitat.

### **Responsibility for implementation of this policy**

We all work together to care for our environment as best we can, to preserve what we have for future generations.