

Environmental Sustainability Policy

Rationale:

Our school, like all school, has the potential to produce large amounts of solid waste. However, strategies that reduce waste lead to financial savings for the school, considerable benefits for the environment and opportunities for students to develop environmentally sound attitudes and habits. It is also the aim for Altona Green to be as litter free as possible to make our school attractive.

Aim:

- to develop an environmentally conscious school culture which minimises waste
- for the strategies of reduce, re-use, re-cycle and renew be incorporated into everyday activities

Implementation:

A co-ordinator from the staff will be responsible for overseeing the development and implementation.

Key Strategies /actions

1. Waste Minimisation

- Separate compost, recycle and rubbish bins in each classroom, office, canteen, kitchen and staffroom
- Waste monitoring and audits
- Staff awareness of overuse of photo-copier
- Reduced use of paper
- Paper recycling
- All food must be consumed within the designated eating areas, which are identified by a red-line
- Participation in World Environment activities
- Rubbish free days and garbage free lunch days
- Promotions of nude food, lunch boxes versus paper wrappings
- Inclusion through topic cycles
- Reduced litter in playground
- Eating lunch, snacks in classroom and only nude food taken outside

2. Recycling

- Separate bins for compost, disposal waste, plastics and paper
- Recycled products and others that help reduce waste be purchased where possible
- Worm farm and compost heaps to recycle food scraps
- Awards and recognition or incentives for reduced waste reduction
- Tree and plant material to be mulched and chipped and reused wherever possible
- Monitoring and assessment of classroom waste
- Inquiry units to reflect reduce, reuse, recycle message

3. Biodiversity

- Children will be encouraged to plant indigenous trees, shrubs and ground covers to encourage a variety of plant and animal life.
- Reduce use of chemicals not natural to the environment eg; cleaning, pest control, fertilizer
- Litter reduction to be vigorously pursued
- Use of local council for support and advice

4. Energy Savings

- Use of fuels such as gas and electricity audited and plans made for reduction
- Fuel efficiency decisions considered when purchasing
- Classroom teachers make plans with their class for fuel savings
- Develop habits which save energy
 - Reduce use of heaters and air conditioners
 - Switch off appliances

5. Water

- Water will be audited and reduced by
 - Mulching garden
 - Installing rain water tanks for watering of garden
 - Plant drought hardy indigenous plants
 - Fix taps

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed 6th October 2010