

**Holy Family Primary School  
GOWRIE**



**WASTE WISE**

**Policy**





# Waste Wise Policy

## Related Policies

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Nil

## Policy

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Holy Family Primary School identifies itself as a Waste Wise School. The Waste Wise Schools Program is an initiative of ACT No Waste by 2010 and our school has received an award and plaque indicating that we are dedicated to living the principles associated with being a Waste Wise School.

This means that we have made a commitment to reduce the amount of landfill rubbish we produce through initiating recycling programs within the school. Our aim is to instil in our students an understanding about sustainability, encouraging them to explore sustainable solutions for resource use in our future. This aim filters through our curriculum in many of our Integrated Studies Units and the 'Learning Patch' and Compost area provide a hands-on, 'real life' experience that the children can easily translate into their every day lives.

## Purpose

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The fundamental principles of Waste Wise are: Rethink, Reduce, Re-use, Recycle. We encourage staff, students and community alike to discuss recycling at home and look at ways of reducing unnecessary landfill-bound material. We recognise that most of our "rubbish" can, in fact, be reused and recycled if we take the time and make the effort to think about what we're doing.

Currently we are recycling paper and food scraps are sent home to staff or families with chickens. We have reduced our landfill contribution by 2/3's over the past couple of years and our recycling program continues to strengthen as the students take on greater responsibility. By working together as a community, we can make a difference to the environment.

## Procedures

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The Waste Wise Committee consists of three entities, each the responsibility of certain committee members. The facets are Recycling leaders:

- Year 4 students (to ensure correct collection of the bins);
- Year 3 and COOSH Garden – Learning Patch; and
- Staff (to ensure whole school education and involvement, organise term activities and multi-media productions).

The maintenance of the 'Learning Patch' and compost area is the responsibility of the classes occupying the demountable buildings and Senior COOSH.

The maintenance of the waste collection is the responsibility of the Year 4 staff and students.

Each classroom and the staff room contain blue recycling bins.

The continuing education of the students regarding our Waste Wise Program is valued. This will occur through such activities as planned excursions to relevant sites, a planned whole school Enviro Week, promotional posters and inserts into the school newsletter.

### **Procedures on Managing the Waste Wise Program:**

Each classroom block and the staff room contain waste bins and blue paper bins:

- Waste bin: waste products: tissues, food scraps, plastic wrap etc.
- Blue container: paper recycling: clean used paper and light cardboard products.

The bins are emptied daily. This is supervised by the school's janitor. Year 4 students collect all green wheelie bins and take them to the bin room for emptying. Twice weekly these bins are emptied by the school's janitor and once a week new liners inserted. Bins should be monitored and collected to avoid bin contamination. The paper is collected in the blue wheelie bins and emptied every week. Teachers wheel them to the kerb in front of the school.

The canteen food scraps are also collected at this time and taken home by staff or parents with chickens.

No Waste days encourage children from all grades to bring their lunch in reusable containers and leave all wrappers at home.

### **Water Wise Agreed Practice**

#### **Recycling:**

- Ensuring recycling practices are maintained.
- Monitoring and organising blue bin collection.
- Negotiating disposal contracts.
- Organising daily recycling program and protocols.
- Yearly review of recycling practices.
- Monitoring school grounds, internal and external, to maintain a clean school environment.
- Monitoring and report on effectiveness of recycling program and provide staff feedback every term.

- Ensuring enough appropriate bins are obtained and placed in the classrooms and on the playground.

### Environment:

- Encouraging all involved to correctly maintain the garden beds.
- Maintaining newly planted trees by watering them.
- Liaising with families for holiday help of garden plots and working bees.
- Planting seeds, caring for garden, etc.
- Maintaining the services of a landscaping company to maintain the gardens and weekly 'blowing' of paved areas.

### Education:

- Organising school excursions to relevant sites.
- Organising activities for annual or term Green Week.
- Developing Newsletter inserts: competitions, photographs, word searches, updates, etc.
- Whole School promotion of Waste Wise Program such as: posters, performances, PowerPoint, display students work, etc.
- Locating competitions or events that can enhance our school profile and apply for appropriate grants.
- Encouraging Waste Wise principles be incorporated in Units of study.
- Liaising with other schools and community groups to find new ideas and approaches.
- Updating school website to include current events and Waste Wise issues.
- Distributing websites, programs and general information to staff that is relevant to our Waste Wise Program.

### References

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Nil

### Forms

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Nil

Approved by:	Holy Family School Board
Implementation Date:	2009
Policy last Updated:	August 2014
School Contact Officer:	Anne-Marie Marek