



ASCOT VALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

WASTE-WISE POLICY

Established September 2018 – School Council Approval Not Required

SCHOOL STATEMENT

At Ascot Vale Primary School (AVPS) we promote a safe and empowering learning environment, and also want to maintain a safe and healthy physical environment. We recognise that many of our activities create waste, and to minimise our impact on the environment we want to manage our waste wisely.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the AVPS Waste-Wise Policy is to wipe out waste in our school through the integration of the school's waste operations and curriculum, and by engaging the whole school community. This will benefit all of us by improving the cleanliness and comfort of our school, reducing costs associated with waste management, and reducing the impact of our school's activities on the environment.

OBJECTIVES

An audit of school waste in 2018 showed 55% of our landfill waste is from food scraps, which should be placed in green garden bins. 20% of the landfill item should have been recycled and placed in the commingled bin. Educating staff and students should ensure that the correct items go into each bin.

As a school, we have committed to reducing this waste by 25% by 2019 and 50% by 2020.

IMPLEMENTATION

AVPS will deal with waste wisely by encouraging our school community to live by the A3RsC

- *Avoid*
- *Reduce*
- *Reuse*
- *Recycle*
- *Compost*

We will do this by addressing waste in the day-to-day operation of the school, by building a focus on waste reduction and sustainability into the school curriculum, and by engaging all members of the school community.

1. School operations

Waste-wise practices will be built into the operation of the school, including by:

- Conducting annual waste audits to check progress against our waste reduction objectives;
- Considering whether and how the principles of avoiding, reducing, reusing, recycling and composting can be applied to any school policies as they are being reviewed by school council;
- Encouraging families to use minimal disposable packaging in school lunches, and holding periodic "nude food" events;

- Introducing green waste bins in the yard as well as food waste bins in both classrooms and the staff room to reduce the amount of food and garden waste going to landfill;
- Ensuring recycling bins are available and used appropriately in classrooms and office areas;
- Setting school printers to double-sided by default;
- Purchasing recycled or recyclable materials where possible.

2. Curriculum

A focus on waste minimisation will be built into the curriculum across all year levels:

- Tools for planning will be provided to teachers;
- Planned units will be audited for opportunities to include a focus on waste minimisation
- Students will be encouraged to share what they have learned with their families and the wider community.

3. Community

A culture of reducing, reusing and recycling will be fostered throughout the school community:

- Students will be encouraged to take ownership of and lead waste-wise strategies through the development of an Environment Protection Activist (EPA) student team;
- The Waste-wise Teacher Committee will work with the EPA team to oversee and coordinated waste-wise activities;
- Staff will lead by example, applying the principles of reducing, reusing and recycling to their actions at school;
- Teaching staff will be provided with relevant professional development opportunities;
- Events, competitions and other activities will be developed and shared with the school community through the newsletter and via parent representatives;
- The rationale, learning and other benefits of the Wipe Out Waste program will be shared with families through the Newsletter, Prep Transition Handbook, assemblies and Facebook groups, and via parent representatives;
- Families will be invited to contribute to and guide waste-wise activity both at school and at home.

REVIEW OF POLICY:

This policy will be reviewed every three years in line with the waste reduction objectives described above. School Council approval is not required.

REFERENCES

This policy can be read in conjunction with the AVPS Litter Policy and the AVPS Student Leadership Policy.