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Purpose

The Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church for the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, as the Approved Provider, operate St Nicholas within a framework of being environmentally responsible at all times.

The policy provides staff, children and families with inspiration and guidelines on sustainable practices to be carried out within the centre.

Policy

St Nicholas is committed to promoting sustainability and facilitating a healthy community, healthy economy and healthy environment.

Definitions

For the purpose of this policy:

- Environmental sustainability: The responsible use and management of the planet’s resources to ensure they remain available and uncompromised for future generations to use and enjoy.
- Sustainable practices: Practices that reduce harm to the environment and minimise use of resources.

Scope

The policy relates to all operations within St Nicholas.

Policy Context

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Education and Care Services National Regulations (2011).

Relationships to Standards

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

National Quality Standard, Quality Area 3: Physical Environment – Standard 3.2.3: The service cares for the environment and supports children to become environmentally responsible.

Responsibilities

The Director/Nominated Supervisor is responsible for promoting environmental sustainability and monitoring compliance with the policy.

Staff are responsible for promoting environmental sustainability and complying with the policy.

Families are responsible for being aware of St Nicholas’ approach to environmental sustainability.

Legislative/Professional Guidelines

Belonging, Being & Becoming – The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia

Davis, J. M. and Elliott, S. (2004) Mud pies and daisy chains: Connecting young children and nature. In Every Child, 10(4) p4

Early Childhood Australia (unpublished final draft), ECA Environmental Sustainability Policy

Educators’ Guide to the Early Learning Years Framework for Australia

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Environmental Education in Early Childhood (EEEC)

Guide to the National Quality Standard, ACECQA

Hughes, M. (2007) Climbing the little green steps: How to promote sustainability within early childhood services in your local area, Gosford and Wyong Council

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