



Bacchus Marsh  
Grammar

# ELC POLICY

## Early Learning Centre Environmental Sustainability Policy

Approved by the School Principal 20 August 2024

**Bacchus Marsh Grammar** PO Box 214 Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340 **E** [school@bmg.vic.edu.au](mailto:school@bmg.vic.edu.au)  
**Maddingley Campus** South Maddingley Road, Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340 **P** 03 5366 4800  
**Woodlea Campus and ELC** 111 Frontier Avenue, Aintree VIC 3336 **P** 03 5366 4900

An Independent Ecumenical School  
for Girls and Boys  
Reg. No. 1919  
ABN: 24 128 531 078  
[www.bmg.vic.edu.au](http://www.bmg.vic.edu.au)





## Environmental Sustainability Policy

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## 1 National Quality Standard

QA3	3.2.3	Environmentally responsible - The service cares for the environment and supports children to become environmentally responsible.
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QA6	6.1.1	Engagement with the service - Families are supported from enrolment to be involved in the service and contribute to service decisions.
	6.2.3	Community engagement - The service builds relationships and engages with its local community.

## 2 Early Years Learning Framework

LO2	Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment
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### 3 Aim

Our service aims to help children learn about and implement sustainable practices and foster respect and care for the living and non-living environment.

### 4 Implementation

4.1.1 Children develop positive attitudes and values about sustainable practices by engaging in learning experiences, joining in discussions that explore solutions to environmental issues, and watching adults model sustainable practices. Children learn to live interdependently with the environment.

#### 4.2 Environmental Sustainability and our Curriculum

4.2.1 Our educators will promote a holistic, open-ended curriculum which explores ideas and practices for environmental sustainability and helps children understand the interdependence between people and the environment by:

- connecting children to nature through art and play and allowing children to experience the natural environment through natural materials like wood, stone sand and recycled materials, plants including native vegetation, vegetable patch with gardening tools and watering cans.
- celebrating childrens' environmental knowledge and sustainable activities.
- enlisting the help of groups with expertise in environmental issues, for example bush care groups, wildlife rescue groups, Clean Up Australia, to deliver elements of our sustainability program
- acknowledging and celebrating environmental awareness events like Clean Up Australia Day.

#### 4.3 The Role of Educators

4.3.1 Our educators will model sustainable practices by embedding sustainability into all aspects of the daily running of our service operations including:

- recycling materials for curriculum and learning activities
- Composting food scraps
- minimising waste and effectively using service resources
- turning off equipment and lights when not in use
- using the least hazardous cleaning substance appropriate for the situation, for example, ordinary detergent for cleaning dirt from tables and other surfaces.
- incorporating water wise strategies such as drip irrigation and ensuring taps are turned off and leaks fixed.

#### 4.4 Partnerships with Families and the Community

- 4.4.1 Our educators will facilitate collaborative partnerships with local community groups, government agencies and private companies to enhance and support childrens' learning about sustainable practices. We will share their brochures and fact sheets on sustainable practices like recycling, saving water and power and green cleaning with our children and their families. Families will be encouraged to participate in decision making and information sharing about environmental sustainability through our newsletters, parent input forms, wall displays, meetings.
- 4.4.2 The NSW Early Childhood Environmental Education Network has resources which may assist Early Childhood Services to identify and work towards an Environmentally Sustainable Service. The Network's website also has links to many organisations and Government agencies that provide information on sustainable practices at <http://www.eceen.org.au/links.htm>

### 5 Source

**Early Years Learning Framework**  
**Climbing the little green steps 2007: Gosford and Wyong Councils**  
**Environmental Education in Early Childhood (Victoria) Inc**  
**National Quality Standard**  
**NSW Early Childhood Environmental Education Network**

### 6 Review

The policy will be reviewed annually by:

- Management
- Employees
- Families
- Interested Parties

### 7 Authorisation

<b>ELC Document Name</b>	<b>Environmental Sustainability Policy</b>	
<b>Name of Reviewer:</b> Approved Provider	<b>Principal Andrew Neal</b>	<b>Signature:</b>
<b>Name of Reviewer:</b> Nominated Supervisor	<b>Kerry Osborn</b>	<b>Signature:</b>
<b>Date Revised</b>	<b>August 2024</b>	

### 8 History

<b>Date</b>	<b>Amendment</b>
<b>November 2016</b>	1. New policy
<b>February 2018</b>	2. Reviewed
<b>May 2019</b>	3. Reviewed
<b>August 2022</b>	4. Reviewed
<b>August 2023</b>	5. Reviewed
<b>August 2024</b>	6. Reviewed added role of educators, reformatted