**Environmental Sustainability**

**Reviewed: 13/09/2018 Next Review: 13/09/2019**

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| **Education and care services regulation/s** | **NSW Department of Education policy, procedure or guidelines** | **National Quality Standard(s)** | [**Preschool Handbook**](https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/caddbee8-92ca-422b-a9df-cffdd34d5ccf/1/preschool-handbook.pdf) **reference** | **School policy or procedure, where applicable** |
| |  | | --- | | Schedule 1 | | The following department policies and relevant documents can be accessed from the preschool section of the department’s [website](https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/preschool/policies-and-procedures): | **3.2.3: Environmentally responsible**  The service cares for the environment and supports children to become environmentally responsible.  **6.2.2: Access and participation**  Effective partnerships support children's access, inclusion and participation in the program. |  |  |
| ***Key Resources***   |  | | --- | | * Guide to the National Quality Standard (3) ACECQA (2011) * Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 * Energy Efficiency Opportunities Act 2006 * NSW Department of Environment and Heritage – www.environment.nsw.gov.au * Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities * Early Childhood Environmental Education Network – www.eceen.org.au * Community Child Care Co-operative (NSW) | | | | | |

At Edgeworth Public School Preschool we aim to provide awareness and encourage environmental responsibilities in our service practices. These practices need to be environmentally friendly involving our staff, children and families creating a successful unity.

* ***Our Aim:-***
* Edgeworth Public School Preschool will ensure a safe, well maintained and clean service.
* Edgeworth Public School Preschool will enrich children’s experiences through interactions with their natural environment.
* Edgeworth Public School Preschool will encourage sustainable practices within the centre, encouraging staff, children and families to work towards a “green” environment and community, and
* Edgeworth Public School Preschool staff will encourage children to learn and also explain nature’s life cycle.
* ***Implementation:-***

*Staff will make sustainable practices a part of their daily routines. These practices are as follows:*

* Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink
* Gardening
* Water Conservation
* Energy Conservation
* Waste Management
* Sustainable Equipment Purchases
* Maintain Worm Farm/Compost Bin

Staff will be encouraged to discuss sustainable practices with the children as part of the Edgeworth Public School Preschool curriculum framework. Staff will include recycling as part of the everyday practices at Edgeworth Public School Preschool. Recycling bins will provide storage encouraging staff to role model sustainable practices.

The staff will use provided containers in their centre to reduce food waste. Children will be encouraged to place their food scraps into the containers for use in the compost bin/worm farm. The staff will discuss with the children and families what worms can eat and what foods can be used to compost.

The children will be involved in maintaining the worm farm.

Staff will role-model water and energy conservation practices, turning off lights, air-conditioners and computers when a room is not in use. Collect rain water to fill water buckets, watering cans and containers as well as empty unused water into the gardens.

The staff will use government and local council departments as sources of information on sustainable practices used within the local community. The staff will liaise with the government and council departments for possible grants available to put in place energy and water conservation practices at Edgeworth Public School Preschool.

Edgeworth Public School Preschool will aim to purchase equipment that is eco-friendly where ever possible.

Edgeworth Public School Preschool will reduce the amount of plastic and disposable equipment they purchase and select materials that are made of natural materials and fibres.

The staff and families will be encouraged to think about the services practices and how the preschool can become more sustainable.

Edgeworth Public School Preschool’s program will encourage both staff and children to engage in sustainable practices, learning to care for and protect our planet for future generations to come.