



## St Brigid's Environmental Sustainability Policy

### Introduction

Brigid of Kildare is a patroness of those who have a care for the earth, for justice and equality, for peace and reconciliation. She is a model for a contemplative life. As our patron saint, we draw inspiration from Brigid's reverence and respect for the land, and her recognition for the fragility of the ecosystem that we live within. At St Brigid's we promote that same care for the earth within our student and school community.

### Rationale

- To provide students and community members with the opportunity to realise their role as co-creators and stewards of God's creation.
- To follow the tradition of St Brigid by promoting the stewardship of the school grounds.
- To educate our students in sound sustainability practices that can be applied throughout life.
- Consciously consider and model sustainable practices in the management of school facilities.

### Policy Statement

Our policy will address the four core areas of sustainability; biodiversity, waste, water and energy.

For each of the areas, St Brigid's will:

#### Biodiversity

- Aim to plant indigenous and native flora as preferred vegetation
- Identify areas for improved planting of trees
- Aim to balance the school ecosystem to attract more native fauna

#### Waste

- Reduce the amount of waste, which will reduce the cost of waste management
- Educate and put into practice within the school community the principles of reduce, reuse, recycle

## Water

- Educate the school community about ways to reduce water usage
- Monitor water usage where practical
- Aim to ensure water efficient equipment is used throughout school and is considered when conducting maintenance work

## Energy

- Aim to ensure energy efficient equipment is used throughout the school, including lighting
- Control energy consumption to reduce the impact on the natural environment
- Educate the school community about best practice use of energy

## Implementation

To ensure the effective implementation of this policy, under the direction of the Principal, St Brigid's will:

- Have a long term rather than short term view of environmental sustainability
- Assign and monitor roles and responsibilities of implementation
- Maintain an Environment Committee at the School to effect the implementation of this policy
- Request the Environment Committee report annually to the School community on the progress of activities under this policy
- Address the National Curriculum's cross curricular priorities (sustainability)
- Access grants where possible to assist with the implementation of this policy
- Consider cost effectiveness (balancing practicality with environmental sustainability)
- Design for function over form and be vandal sensitive