

- Draft -
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

RATIONALE:

We recognise the importance of respecting the natural world around us and practicing and teaching environmental sustainability. We respect te ao Māori and the concept that everything living and non-living is interconnected and that we have a role as kaitiaki (guardians) to preserve the mauri (life force) taonga (treasures) of the natural world around us.

We know that if our children understand the principle of kaitiakitanga and learn environmentally sustainable practices now, then there is hope that they will develop a life-long respect for the environment and help to preserve the environment for future generations.

PURPOSE:

To ensure that the principles of kaitiakitanga and environmental sustainability are taught, modeled and valued at Island Bay School.

POLICY:

TEACHING STUDENTS ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

We look for opportunities to connect our students with nature and encourage them to explore, interact with and build respect for the natural environment.

We teach our students about environmental sustainability in accordance with the NZ Curriculum. We seek opportunities to explore environmental sustainability using our inquiry model and through a variety of subjects including the arts, health and physical education, science, social sciences and technology. We encourage exploration of the effect of human activities on nature and actions we can take to prevent and change activities that are harmful to the environment.

We seek to instil in our students an understanding of how they connect with their wider Island Bay environment by learning its history and how to protect and nurture it for future generations. We explore how protecting and nurturing our environment will in turn protect and nurture us.

OUR INDOOR ENVIRONMENT

We endeavor to create attractive indoor spaces that are functional yet embrace the natural world incorporating natural resources and indoor plants.

OUR OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT

We seek to improve the outdoor environment of our school developing gardens, playgrounds, green spaces, trees and vegetation to encourage insects, worms and birdlife so that staff, students and the school community are able to interact with nature within our school grounds. Students are encouraged to take care of the outdoor environment.

PROCUREMENT

When making decisions on purchasing school equipment and supplies, designing our playgrounds and buildings we consider the environmental impacts of our choices. We strive to make environmentally sustainable choices.

CONSERVING ENERGY & WATER

We endeavor to minimise our energy and water consumption at school and teach awareness to our students of the same.

REDUCING WASTE

We are aware of the environmental impacts of waste and we try to minimise it. We teach and put into practice the “the 6 Rs”: Rethink, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repair. We encourage rubbish-free lunchboxes, water only for drinks and we have bokashi, compost and worm farm systems in place on the school grounds.

CONNECTING WITH WHĀNAU AND THE COMMUNITY

We recognise the need for a holistic view on teaching environmental sustainability which includes and connects with the wider school community. We communicate about our environmental sustainability programmes, invite feedback from whānau and continually seek to strengthen ties with people and groups in the community also working in this field.