



Menzies Creek Primary School

Rubbish Free Policy

Rationale/Purpose:

Menzies Creek Primary School is a healthy and sustainable school. This means that we promote healthy eating, fitness and overall well-being in our students and the wider school community. We also promote sustainability practices, especially with, waste disposal, water and energy usage .

In line with this, M.C.P.S. will operate as a **Rubbish Free School**. This is a practical, real and positive way to encourage healthy eating and teach waste minimisation. Being a rubbish free school allows students to develop their understanding of how their actions impact the environment and also the steps they can take to minimise this impact.

Students are encouraged to bring food to school without any packaging. Furthermore, our 'carry in, carry out' policy requires that any waste that is brought into the school must be taken home.

Aims/objectives:

This policy aims to provide a practical, real and positive way to encourage healthy eating and teach waste minimisation. Becoming a Rubbish Free School will improve student understanding of how consuming processed, packaged foods daily does impact on the environment and their health.

Like all schools, Menzies Creek Primary School can produce large amounts of waste. It is our aim to send as little waste as possible to landfill. The school would like to reduce our waste to:

- 1 x 240 litre landfill bin per week
- 2 x council recycling bins per fortnight; and
- 1 x cardboard recycling skip (emptied as needed)

This will lead to financial savings for the school, considerable benefits for the environment and many opportunities for the students to learn environmentally sound attitudes and habits.

It is also our aim to have no litter in the school buildings and grounds. This will make our school more attractive and save money and time in collecting carelessly discarded litter. It is also important from a health perspective. The school is committed to a whole school approach to environment education of which waste minimisation and rubbish free food plays a vital role.

Our policy is that:

- strategies of reduce, reuse, recycle and compost is incorporated in everyday activities
- strategy of rubbish free food and rubbish free lunch packaging is incorporated in everyday activities
- waste minimisation is included in the relevant areas of the school curriculum; and
- recycled products and others that help reduce waste are purchased where possible.

Implementation:

Classroom/School Expectations:

- no wrappers to be placed in classroom or staffroom bins
- student monitors to check their class' waste
- curriculum focus (teaching students how to minimise waste and about the environmental impact)
- promotion of the policy through assembly announcements, school newsletters, signs, postings on the school website etc
- food scraps to be put into classroom compost and collected by Year 6 monitors
- food to be eaten in classroom, with rubbish placed straight back into bag
- encourage reusable containers for food (regular PFA fundraisers selling a variety these products)
- encourage bulk items divided into containers rather than separate small packets
- take lunch order bags home
- participation in National Nude Food Day -www.nudefoodday.com.au

Family/Community Expectations:

- assist the school in teaching students about the importance of waste minimisation
- provide students with reusable containers
- where possible purchase bulk items instead of individual wrapping
- label all containers and encourage students to be responsible for them-
- expect wrappers to be taken back home
- reuse lunch order bags if your child has the same order each week

Targets:

Our long term goal is to reduce our overall landfill waste to ZERO, short term we have set ourselves the target of reducing our landfill waste to 1 x 240 litre bin per week.

To help achieve this we have become a new Resource Smart AuSSI Vic school. We have applied for the waste module that assists us in auditing by using the SETS (School Environment Tracking System) to calculate the school's waste.

By analysing our waste figures we can take action on the type of waste that is being produced and find ways to remove them entirely. Nude food is one of these short-term goals that will make an impact on our long term goal.