



Rockingham Montessori School Incorporated
ABN: 68 115 270 695

POLICY TITLE: Waste Wise Policy

BOARD APPROVAL DATE: August 2021

SIGNED BY PRINCIPAL:

BOARD REVIEW DATE: August 2024

PURPOSE:

Rockingham Montessori School identifies itself as a Waste Wise School. We have made a commitment to reduce the amount of landfill rubbish we produce through initiating recycling programs within the school. Our aim is to instil in our school community an understanding about caring for our environment in a sustainable way, and to ultimately educate all students in how to be Waste Wise.

RATIONALE:

At Rockingham Montessori School we believe in striving towards a world where people value the natural environment and care for their communities. One way we can do this is by becoming Waste Wise, and promoting a policy of:

- **Rethink**
- **Reduce**
- **Reuse**
- **Recycle**

By actively engaging in this policy our curriculum will reflect our commitment to fostering ecologically sound ways of interacting in our environment. Reuse and Reduce strategies will be incorporated into everyday activities and waste minimisation and litter reduction will be included in the relevant areas of study.

COMMITTEE:

The Waste Wise Program will be monitored and directed by the Waste Wise Committee. The Committee will be made up of no more than eight (8) students, and be overseen by one (1) member of staff. The roles of the committee will be opened up for nominations at the beginning of Semester One and Semester Two of each year. This allows for the opportunity for more students to contribute to this important role. In the case that there are numerous nominations (more than eight) it will be the overseeing staff member's responsibility to select the new Committee members. The staff member will first consider any nominations from students who have not previously contributed to the Committee.

The Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer roles can be shared between two students, allowing for 3 General Committee member positions. Or, if the aforementioned roles are held by only one student then there can be up to 5 General Committee members.

The Committee will meet once a term (as a minimum) to discuss issues and to organise term budgets, goals and projects.

The nominated committee members will fulfil the following roles and responsibilities:

Role	Responsibilities	Attributes Required
Chairperson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conducts committee meetings and keeps the meetings on track, following the agenda • makes sure everyone has a chance to speak and is heard • talks with teachers at school, as appropriate, about committee issues and decisions • remains impartial in matters being discussed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity • Dedication • Fairness • Openness and humbleness • Good communication skills • A sense of humour
Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lets members know when and where a meeting is to be held • prepares agendas (collecting ideas from other members) and keeps records (the minutes) • makes sure each representative gets a copy of the agenda and minutes • handles all communication to and from the committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organised and detail orientated • A practiced listener and creative in problem solving • Efficient and possesses good time management skills • Good communication skills • A sense of humour
Treasurer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • keeps a record of money received, money paid, and bills received • investigates cost of items or activities • presents financial recommendations to meetings • act as a go-between with the adults at school who are responsible for finances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love of math/number • Foresight and planning • Responsible • Methodical • Good communication skills • A sense of humour
General Committee Member (3-5 positions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • talks to other students and teachers, acts as a go-between with the committee and others • attends all committee meetings • presents student ideas, concerns and suggestions to the committee at meetings • provides regular opportunities for students to present and discuss their ideas and opinions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to apply sound and fair judgement • Dedication, motivation and enthusiasm • Courage, openness and humbleness • Good communication skills • A sense of humour

PROCEDURES OF WASTE WISE PROGRAM:

Bins

Each classroom and the staff room will have four bins:

- Green bin: waste products: tissues, food scraps, plastic wrap etc
- Yellow bin: compost food scraps for chickens and worm farm
- Red bin: plastic recyclables: hard plastics, tins, cans, glass etc. These items must be rinsed before disposal.
- Blue bin: paper recycling (clean used paper and light cardboard products)

The bins are emptied daily by class representatives who take their bins to the various coloured wheelie bins in the school.

Chickens

Care of the chickens will rotate between the Primary classrooms on a termly basis. The rostered class will be responsible for:

- Feeding the chickens (yellow bin scraps) and filling water bottles
- Cleaning the coop
- Ensuring the chickens are healthy
- Collecting the eggs
- Providing holiday care for the chickens (this excludes weekends)

Worm farm

Maintenance of the worm farm will rotate between the Primary classrooms on a weekly basis. The rostered class will be responsible for:

- Collecting the scraps (yellow bin) to feed the worms
- Ensuring that waste that should not be given to the worms (or chickens) is removed
- Leaving food for the chickens in the bin provided
- Returning the brown bins to the classrooms