

Sustainability Policy

Purpose

Bateau Bay Before & After School Care is committed to embedding sustainable practices that create a positive impact on the environment, society, and future generations. This commitment is grounded in the principles of the National Quality Framework (NQF), the National Law, and the National Regulations. Sustainability is not treated as an additional activity, but as an integral part of our daily operations, educational programs, and community partnerships. By taking these steps, we aim to inspire children, families, educators, and the wider community to respect and care for the natural world and to adopt lifelong sustainable habits.

Scope

This policy applies to all children enrolled in the service, their families, staff, educators, management, visitors and volunteers. It reflects a shared responsibility to ensure that the policies and procedures guiding our service are relevant, effective and consistently applied.

Policy Statement

Our service is dedicated to fostering environmental awareness, reducing our ecological footprint, and encouraging active participation in sustainability initiatives. We ensure that every action we take reflects our legal and ethical obligations under the National Law, the National Regulations, and the National Quality Standard. Sustainability is embedded into everyday practice, from the way we manage resources to the way we educate and empower children.

Objectives

The key objective of this policy is to provide children with meaningful opportunities to learn about sustainability and to participate in practices that promote care for the environment. We aim to nurture environmental responsibility by incorporating sustainability into our educational programs, daily routines, and service operations. Children are encouraged to engage in hands-on experiences such as gardening, recycling, waste management, water conservation, and learning about renewable energy. Through these activities, they develop an understanding of how their choices can make a difference. Educators guide children in exploring nature-based learning, storytelling, and other experiences that deepen their respect for the natural environment.

Another important objective is to minimise waste and reduce reliance on single-use plastics by promoting the use of reusable containers, maintaining effective recycling systems, and encouraging digital communication to reduce paper use. Water conservation is also prioritised through the installation of efficient fixtures, the use of rainwater harvesting systems, and the inclusion of drought-resistant plants in our gardens. Energy efficiency is supported by using energy-saving appliances and lighting, turning off devices when not in use, and exploring renewable energy options such as solar power. Sustainable sourcing is valued by prioritising eco-friendly cleaning products, sourcing food and supplies locally, and supporting environmentally responsible businesses.

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Community Engagement

We recognise that sustainability is most effective when it extends beyond the service. Families and the local community are invited to participate in our sustainability initiatives through events, workshops, and shared projects. We work in collaboration with community organisations to strengthen our impact and provide children with a real-world understanding of collective responsibility. Families are encouraged to adopt sustainable practices at home, supported by the information, resources, and examples we share. By working together, we can build a culture of care that benefits both people and the planet.

Continuous Improvement

Sustainability is an ongoing journey, and we are committed to continuously reviewing and enhancing our practices. Each year, we reflect on the effectiveness of this policy in consultation with children, families, staff, and community members. Feedback is valued as it guides improvements and ensures our practices remain relevant. Educators are supported with professional development opportunities so they can continue to grow in their knowledge and skills around sustainability education.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Approved Provider and Nominated Supervisor are responsible for ensuring that this policy is implemented consistently and in line with the NQF and National Law. Educators and staff model sustainable practices and guide children to engage meaningfully in sustainability learning. Children are encouraged to take part in experiences that promote environmental care, developing positive habits and a strong sense of responsibility. Families play an important role by supporting the service's sustainability initiatives and extending these practices into the home environment.

Legislation and Guidelines

This policy is reviewed annually, or more frequently if needed, to ensure that it remains effective and up to date. Families, educators, children, and community members are invited to contribute to the review process, reinforcing our shared responsibility for sustainability. Through reflection and collaboration, Bateau Bay Before & After School Care remains committed to fostering a sustainable future.

Review

This policy is reviewed annually, or more frequently if needed, to ensure that it remains effective and up to date. Families, educators, children, and community members are invited to contribute to the review process, reinforcing our shared responsibility for sustainability. Through reflection and collaboration, Bateau Bay Before & After School Care remains committed to fostering a sustainable future.

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Child Safe Standards and Paramountcy Principle

The Service is committed to upholding the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and embedding a strong child safe culture across all practices, including sustainability initiatives and environmental education. In accordance with the Paramountcy Principle, the safety, wellbeing and best interests of the child are the primary and overriding consideration in all decisions, actions and practices undertaken by the Service, including sustainability practices and experiences.

This requires that all sustainability practices prioritise the safety, supervision and wellbeing of children above all other considerations. Educators, staff and management must exercise sound professional judgement to ensure that all sustainability activities, including gardening, recycling, waste management and environmental exploration, are conducted in a safe, supervised and developmentally appropriate manner.

The Service will ensure that sustainability practices are implemented in a way that maintains a safe and supportive environment for children. This includes identifying and managing potential risks associated with materials, tools, environments and activities, while supporting children to engage in meaningful learning experiences that promote respect for the environment.

All practices relating to sustainability must prioritise the protection of children from harm, uphold their dignity and wellbeing, and ensure that every child is safe, supported and cared for at all times.

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Review

Date:	Changes:	Reviewed by:
26/11/2021	New policy (All updated)	Charmayne Nathan
04/07/2024	No changes - reviewed	Charmayne Nathan
17/09/2025	Policy was updated, information was condensed.	Charmayne Nathan
30/04/2026	Child Safe Standards & Paramountcy Principle was implemented in align with new laws and regulations	Charmayne Nathan