

Laudato Si' Action Plan

Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Ingleburn

Overview

Holy Family Catholic Primary School is a two-streamed school serving the community Parishes of Ingleburn, Minto, Macquarie Fields and Glenfield. It is located in the suburb of Ingleburn in the Macarthur region. The school caters for students in years K-6 and has a current enrolment of approximately 370 students. It is one of the 30 systemic primary schools that belong to Catholic Education in the Diocese of Wollongong (CEDoW).

CEDoW understands that Catholic Schools have a missionary and ecclesial mandate that impels them to listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. Engagement with eco-spirituality, environmental education and action is a key component of our mission, of being Catholic and is viewed as “core business”, not an “optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience” (LS n217)

We are called to respond to the environmental crisis of the 21st Century by proactively engaging with Pope Francis' challenge from Laudato Si' for an ecological conversion. Since 2016 CEDoW has intentionally engaged in a strategic, planned approach whereby sustainable practices and ecological values are promoted and supported across the system of schools.

This involves schools embedding ecological values into school programs and practices that promote an ecological and sustainable culture that encourages everyone to live out his/her ecological vocation and engage in caring for our common home.

Context for Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Holy Family Catholic Parish Primary School was founded by the Sisters of the Good Samaritan in the Order of St Benedict and has as its school motto, 'And He Grew In Wisdom'. Due to our history with the Sisters of the Good Samaritan we are informed by the Benedictine charism which reminds us that all things are holy since they come from the hand of God and we have a duty “to cultivate and take care of” the good things of God's creation.

Holy Family is committed to fostering a love of learning, preparing students to be active and responsible citizens and an integral part of this is how we look after and care for God's creation which has been entrusted to us. Our school motto which speaks of growing in wisdom inspires us to continually seek to grow in our own understanding of our responsibility to be wise and good stewards caring for our common home and taking care of the global family to which we belong.

This Laudato Si' Action Plan comes from the School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) which is a tool that enables us to document, implement, reflect and celebrate sustainability as we respond to the challenges from Laudato Si' to walk our own journey of ecological conversion. At Holy Family we understand that we have a missionary and ecclesial mandate that impels us to participate and respond to the call to care for our common home with strategic planning, formation and concrete actions and it is within this context that this LSA Plan and SEMP are formulated.

About the Local Environment and Community

Holy Family Catholic Primary School is a two-stream school located in Ingleburn which is 48 km South West of Sydney in the heart of the Macarthur Region. The school is located on Oxford Road, Ingleburn. The school draws from a range of multicultural and socio-economic backgrounds.

Following the major building works in 2016 that included refurbishment of the Hall and the completion of the Parish Church there has been a new garden space with welcome poles and signage in the "Rainbow Walkway".

In the school there are also extensive garden areas which include a prayer garden, native plants, shrubbery and some established trees. There are three asphalt play areas; one netball court, a shelter area with the canteen and one basketball court. The basketball court backs onto a council park. The council park is utilised by the school daily as a play area and other school-based activities. A new playground funded by the Catholic Club was installed outside the Kindergarten classrooms during the previous SEMP II.

Over the school's history of nearly 40 years the physical environment of the school has evolved in various stages as the population has grown in numbers. This journey of the school's history is reflected in the design and location of the different buildings that make up Holy Family, giving a sense of continued growth and evolution.

This plan fits into whole school planning through the following:

The overall mission of CEDoW is articulated in Lighting the Way, the Strategic Direction Plan that was launched in 2023. This LSAP/SEMP connects directly with the Mission Dimension of the Catholicity and Mission Policy

4.3 develop a School Environment Management Plan (SEMP) that:

4.3.1 is informed by the six areas of the ASSISI Framework and the Laudato Si' Action Goals

4.3.2 includes actions that are informed by the CEDoW Environmental Assessment Tool

4.3.3 is reviewed and updated on a 3-year cycle

Holy Family is involved in CEDoW's Continuous Catholic School Improvement (CCSI) process, as are all schools in the Wollongong diocese. Through this we review all aspects of school life, seeking to make improvements in all areas to the betterment of our students.

This ongoing improvement continues, especially in the area of ecological conversion and sustainability.



This plan connects to whole school planning through the following:

- The School Strategic Improvement Plan (SSIP)
- The School Annual Improvement plan (AIP)
- Reported on in the school annual report
- Integrated with curriculum programs & links to extra-curricular activities for students

Actions

Issue 1: Encouraging the whole school community's ownership and responsibility in promoting and supporting the school's ecological conversion journey.

Laudato Si' Goal/s: Response to the Cry for the Earth, Community Resilience and Empowerment

Outcome: There is a shared understanding amongst the staff of their key role in the implementation of the LSAP/SEMP and the wider school community is aware of sustainability and participates in environmental initiatives and actions.

Indicators: Staff and community are actively involved in environmental planning, actions, initiatives and celebrations.

Overall Time frame: 2028

Action: Sharing of SEMP III and promotion of specific environmental actions that staff can be involved in.

Monitoring procedure: An identifiable improvement in the staff's engagement with environmental issues and actions. Staff may also be proactively involved in future directions for the school's ecological journey.

Action: Maintain Student Environmental Committee ensuring their long term viability and sustainability. Explore possibilities for increased Staff involvement.

Monitoring procedure: The Environmental Student Committee meets regularly and is actively involved in ecological activities in the school.

Action: Annual updating of the documentation of roles and responsibilities for environmental initiatives (Waste Management Systems - Return and Earn, Recycling Bins, and Green Waste, Nude Food Fridays, Whole School Clean Ups, Class eco procedures).

Monitoring procedure: WEN Teacher Contact updates staff at the beginning of each year/or as needed. All members of staff are involved in environmental actions with the capacity and engagement of staff in environmental activities across the school.

Action: Continue to educate and communicate to students, staff and wider school community about the various environmental actions within the daily routine of the school.

Monitoring procedure: The whole school is aware of and follows these actions. Staff include relevant actions on classroom timetables. Environmental activities are being managed effectively and sustainably. Yearly review of procedures for all staff and students.

Action: Explore avenues for sourcing an annual budget for environmental initiatives and maintenance as well as time allocation for WEN Contact and those involved with environmental responsibilities.

Monitoring procedure: An annual revenue stream for environmental actions and initiatives has been established. Time allocation for WEN Contact and other teachers is considered.

Action: Reminding staff of ecological and sustainable practices and actions that they can engage in.

Monitoring procedure: Staff is proactively engaged and involved in daily actions that are environmentally friendly and aware.



Action: To invite greater parent, carer and community involvement in the ecological activities and actions that occur at Holy Family.

Monitoring procedure: The wider parent/carers community is more involved and engaged in various school eco celebrations and activities.

Issue 2: Need for Staff to continue on their ecological conversion journey through formation in eco theology and eco spirituality addressing Mission and Catholicity Policy Expectations.

Laudato Si' Goal/s: Ecological Spirituality

Outcome: Staff explore contemporary ecological issues and ecological spirituality addressing EEA Expectation *provide opportunities for staff to engage in appropriate formation and professional learning in Catholic Social Teaching principles, eco-spirituality, eco-ethics and the eco-theology of Laudato Si'*

Indicators: An increased understanding and appreciation for the need to respond to the challenges outlined in Laudato Si' and staff ownership and involvement in SEMP actions.

Overall Timeframe: 2025 - 2028

Action: Staff engage in Spirituality Day exploring ecological conversion, eco theology and eco spirituality.

Monitoring procedure: Staff have engaged in a day exploring ecological conversion. Eco theology and Eco spirituality themes and language is evident in prayer, liturgy and RE learning and teaching.

Action: To increase Student learning and engagement in Laudato Si' and Laudate Deum through focus in RE Creation Units.

Monitoring procedure: Children have regular learning into the principles of Laudato Si' that influence the community and culture of Holy Family. This is done through the inclusion and referencing of Laudato Si' in RE Creation Units.

Issue 3: ESchool Engagement with the Laudato Si' Action Platform, the seven-year journey towards addressing seven Laudato Si' Goals.

LAUDATO SI' GOAL/s: Response to the Cry for the Earth, Response to the Cry of the Poor, Ecological Economics, Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles, Ecological Education, Ecological Spirituality, Community Resilience and Empowerment

Outcome: Engagement with the seven Laudato Si' Goals from the Laudato Si' Action Platform.

Indicators: An increased understanding and knowledge of the vision and plans of the Laudato Si' seven goals. Naming of the major challenges of our times and participation in actions that respond to the goals.

Overall Timeframe: 2025 - 2028

Action: School signs up to be a Laudato Si' School, completes required documentation on the Platform and engages with the seven goals of the Laudato Si' Action Platform.

Monitoring procedure: The school is engaged in the journey of ecological conversion of the Laudato Si' Action Platform, has enrolled and completed documentation (Self-Assessment and Reflection) on platform. Has uploaded the current SEMP III Plan to the platform.



Issue 4: Continue to ensure that learning and teaching programs reflect ecological themes and the learning across curriculum priority of sustainability. Environmental education and outdoor learning is integrated into all stages and KLAs.

LAUDATO SI' GOAL/s: Response to the Cry for the Earth, Ecological Economics, Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles, Ecological Education, Ecological Spirituality

Outcome: Teacher programs consistently reflect an awareness of ecological themes with the learning across the curriculum priority of sustainability evident.

Indicators: Annual review that checks this is evident in programs.

Overall Time-frame: 2028

Action: Teachers, with the Leadership Team as part of program compliance, identify cross curriculum links for sustainability.

Monitoring procedure: Programs reflect a clear identification of environmental themes. This is reviewed by leadership in program compliance, and shared at staff meetings.

Issue 5: Continue to further reduce the School's Ecological Footprint

LAUDATO SI' GOAL/s: Response to the Cry for the Earth, Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles, Ecological Education

Outcome: Reduction in waste across the school with continued engagement, education and encouraging more awareness across the school community of sustainable practices.

Indicators: Monitoring of energy use. Reduction in packaging of food used and generated by the school community (student, staff, hospitality events, canteen) incorporating more sustainable practices. Reduction in electricity and water bills, additions to the recycling program in the school – general, recycling, composting, Return and Earn.

Overall Timeframe: 2025 - 2028

Action: Expanding and Streamlining the waste management system across Holy Family School. (Return and Earn and Green Waste via solar cones)

Monitoring procedure: Grant has been awarded and the waste management system implemented. School procedures for waste management have been developed and clearly outlined. The whole school is aware of these procedures. Leadership Team will also monitor this.

Action: Continue the monitoring of energy consumption across the school community and raising awareness of energy saving practices. Collecting some data on solar panels and the energy savings.

Monitoring procedure: Regular check ups and monitoring for energy use takes place. End of term checks are also happening. Students and Staff are involved in the monitoring.

Action: Continue the focusing on responsible use of resources across the school community - repurposing and sharing of resources (ie. work books, art resources, stationary)

Monitoring procedure: Annual stocktaking takes place that leads to better stewardship of resources across the school community.

Action: Sustainable choices made for purchasing office products e.g. pens, paper. The school engages with the Bring it Back Officeworks program (whiteboard markers, ink cartridges, pens, highlighters). Batteries are recycled at Bunnings/Aldi/Woolies.

Monitoring procedure: A reduction in waste across the school community is evident with repurposing and recycling encouraged and actioned.



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| Action: There is a whole school approach that includes leadership, administration, school caterers and the canteen coordinator to devise strategies to reduce the waste generated by the canteen and catering events (eg. BYO spoon). Add an ecological lens to the preparation of events. |
| Monitoring procedure: Conversation continues to take place with ideas being further explored and actioned. Parent and School awareness about procedures and ethical resource use across the school, catering, and canteen. This is regularly revisited at P & F meetings and reviewed by the school. |
| Action: Information at Kinder Orientation about the school's Waste free practices and other significant environmental activities are presented and also provided to new families on enrollment. |
| Monitoring procedure: Information about waste free lunches is given to new parents and new Kindergarten students. |
| Action: Maintaining the weekly "Nude Food" Day and a weekly audit of each class' waste free take up. |
| Monitoring procedure: School engages in a weekly waste free day with a noticeable reduction in the amount of waste generated. All teachers monitor their own class' waste free lunch. At the end of each waste free day the Student Environmental Committee collects classroom data that is collated by WEN Contact. Reward for best class given at the end of term. |

Issue 6: School engagement in helping local biodiversity systems through the introduction of native bees to the garden spaces.

LAUDATO SI' GOAL/s: Response to the Cry of the Earth, Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles, Ecological Education, Community Resilience and Empowerment

Outcome: Pollination and renewal of the school gardens through the involvement of bees. Students are educated about the integral role bees play in the continuation of the web of life.

Indicators: Native bees are present in the garden.

Overall Timeframe: 2025 - 2028

Action: Investigate associated costs and resources required for the setting up of native bees in the school gardens.

Monitoring procedure: Decisions made regarding the native bees.

Action: Purchase and installation of a Native Bee Hive and Native Australian plants to assist in pollination.

Monitoring procedure: Native plants and native bee hives have been installed and are maintained by the school community. The bee hive is connected to learning and teaching.

Issue 7: School is marketed on its green credentials with an update to the School website and relevant inclusions to the Parent Information Booklet.

LAUDATO SI' GOAL/s: Ecological Education, Ecological Spirituality, Community Resilience and Empowerment

Outcome: Wider community is aware of the great environmental actions that occur across the school community.

Indicators: Facebook posts, WEN CEO website, newsletters, newspaper articles, school website information about school's achievements in the area of waste management and sustainability.

Overall Timeframe: 2025 - 2028



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Action: Continue the promotion of environmental initiatives at Holy Family through the updating of a the School website and ongoing posts on social media and CEDoW communication channels.

Monitoring procedure: The school is promoted to the wider community through a variety of communication channels. This is done on a regular basis.

Action: Creating signage for the school gardens that raises ecological awareness and encourages reflection for the school community.

Monitoring procedure: Environmental Activities are promoted through signage and artwork across the school community.