

Tin Can Bay P-10 State School Grounds and Environment Policy 2005

This policy was developed by the *Grounds and Environment Committee* in conjunction with a facilitator provided by Burnett Mary Regional Group for NRM Inc. between April and July, 2005.

It is intended that the Policy provide goals and guiding principles to inform future development of the grounds and environment at Tin Can Bay P-10 State School, whilst providing ways that these can interact with the wider school community through innovation, environmental education and best management practice etc. The policy states a commitment to Tin Can Bay's natural resources and sustaining them for future generations to enjoy.

It is intended that this policy will be reviewed every 5 years to insure that it remains relevant to the school community's needs and be accompanied by a Grounds and Environment Action Plan to be revised annually.

Mission Statement:

That best management practice in environmental education facilitates a positive future for the school community and its environment.

Key Areas of the Policy are as follows:

1. Stimulating play areas to interact with the natural environment
2. Building our knowledge of the local natural environment
3. Environmental Education program development
4. Safety
5. Operational Sustainability



1. Stimulating play areas to interact with the natural environment

Goal:

To create stimulating play areas that interact with the natural environment to achieve positive educational outcomes such as social skills, creativity and school pride.

Guiding Principles:

- That play area design should be appropriate to age, interests and needs incorporating features such as:
 - i. A variety of open spaces including an outside drama/stage area, seating, shelter and smaller 'breakout areas' to encourage discussion
 - ii. Elements of the natural environment e.g. shade or climbing trees etc.
 - iii. Natural materials e.g. stone, sand, clay and water
 - iv. Sensory stimulation e.g. touch, sound - music / bamboo pipes
 - v. Challenging elements that provide intellectual, physical (such as balance beams or climbing walls) and social challenges (such as gardening or other hobby areas)
 - vi. Safety - e.g. rubber coated matting for impact absorption, Sun Smart etc.
 - vii. Art and design – colourful and complementing the natural environment
 - viii. Ecological sustainability e.g. water and plant friendly
- That play areas be able to be supervised (as a Duty of Care) to a level appropriate to risk.
- That play areas be developed with input from the school community
- That spaces be adaptable to allow for props, moving pieces or changing structure e.g. snakes and ladders pieces.
- That play areas encourage care for the native environment.

2. Building our knowledge of the local natural environment

Goal:

To facilitate an understanding of the wider natural environment through improved knowledge about the natural environment of Tin Can Bay P-10 State School.

Guiding Principles:

- That the school recognizes that wallum is Tin Can Bay's natural landscape and that the Butchulla people are the country's Aboriginal custodians.
- That there is a commitment to environmental education throughout the curriculum.
- That Tin Can Bay P-10 State School is committed to an induction and on-going professional development program of the school community about the cultural and environmental values of the local area.
- That actions and activities reflect a wider perspective to ensure linkages to the Coastcare network, Cooloola Shire Council, regional arrangements (e.g. Burnett Mary Regional Group for NRM Inc.), Queensland and Federal initiatives.
- That actions and activities are inclusive and relevant to the needs of our community.

3. Environmental Education Program Development

Goal:

To ensure full and diverse use is made of the natural environment to teach, question, explore and encourage development of stewardship.

Guiding Principles:

- That children are actively involved in seeking, collating and sharing information gathered about the immediate environment of Tin Can Bay with a particular emphasis on the flora and fauna.
- That the wider Cooloola environment is promoted through inter-school clusters or networks and that there is a commitment to shared resources including curricular materials, educational outcomes, training opportunities and linkages within clusters.
- That programs encourage students to compare and contrast their local environment to the wider natural world i.e. Cooloola, Great Sandy Strait, Queensland, Australia and the World.
- That education programs adopt the principles of the 'Caring for Country' Policy.

4. Safety

Goal:

To ensure that care is taken at every level to meet legislative requirements to achieve safety in the school.

Guiding Principles:

- That policies described listed below will be adhered to in the development and maintenance of the school grounds and environment.

Health and Safety in the Queensland Department of Education Manual (DOEM)

<http://education.qld.gov.au/corporate/doem/>

Queensland Child Care Protection Act 1999

Queensland Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995

Queensland Anti-Discrimination Act 1991

Disability Discrimination Act 1992

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Act 1986

5. Operational Sustainability

Goal:

To ensure that Tin Can Bay P-10 State School is recognised as a regional leader in environmental education and management practices.

Guiding Principles:

- That issues of biodiversity will be considered in planning future development of our school and in guiding current grounds and management practices.
- That the need to manage all waste products in the school environment through recycling and other management practices will be encouraged by our school community.
- That the concepts of sustainability and biodiversity will be integrated throughout the school curriculum from Prep to Year 10 (and beyond) and reflected in grounds management practices.
- That an annual monitoring process will be implemented to determine the status and effectiveness of our sustainability practices.
- That practices will be implemented to maximize the efficient use of all natural resources (e.g. water) available to the school.
- That practices will be implemented to maintain all school assets and reduce repair costs.