

Sustainability Policy

1 Vision

We believe that our collective future is dependent on a healthy, thriving natural environment and a community in which people can flourish. At Cabra Dominican College (Cabra), sustainability is integrated into College life. We shift our ways to be more sustainable, knowing that this is not always easy. We share our learnings, actions and achievements and celebrate our progress. Together we will create a better world.

We aim to be recognised as a leader in sustainability amongst Catholic schools.

2 Purpose

We must respond to today's environmental and societal challenges with the mindset of a sustainable future for all. This includes matters such as climate change, nature, health and social justice.

In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis gave a call to action named "On Care for Our Common Home" - that is working towards the health and wellbeing of God's creation.

Our Catholic mission and identity guide how we approach sustainability. It is who we are! In making sustainability part of our strategy and everyday behaviours we are being true to our mission.

We are privileged to be able to increase awareness and knowledge of sustainability amongst our Cabra community and beyond. In our roles as educators, students, custodians, support staff and global citizens, we consider it our duty to be responsible - for taking action ourselves and helping and encouraging others. We consider it an opportunity.

We expect that the delivery of this policy will:

- Guide us to learn and evolve in sustainable practices and to integrate them into College life
- Future-proof the College
- Provide positive outcomes for people and the environment
- Deliver on our responsibilities and meet the expectations of our people and community.

3 Scope and alignment

Laudato Si' recognises that a true ecological approach embodies issues of social justice linked to the state of the environment. The scope of this policy is our environment.

The policy applies to Cabra's strategy, decision-making and master planning.

It also applies to how we all go about our daily lives – within the College gates and in the community. We will strive for sustainable behaviours in, for example, rubbish disposal, the use of energy and water, how we travel, and how we look after nature.

In applying this Sustainability Policy, we must be mindful of striking a balance between outcomes for people and our planet with the College's financial sustainability.

Sustainability aligns with Cabra's Reconciliation Action Plan and we will work to be a community that better understands sustainability as it relates to First Nations perspectives including their spiritual connection with the land. We will also align our actions with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals that are relevant for Cabra and report progress towards them.

4 Our Focus Areas

Climate change, nature, and minimising our impact on the environment

- 4.1 Climate change and nature are integral to our future. It is our responsibility to play our part in reducing carbon emissions, protecting and nurturing animals and plants and integrating sustainability into the College as well as our everyday lives.
- 4.2 Cabra has a three-bin waste system across its outdoor areas, has installed solar panels and implemented energy smart initiatives. Environmentally sound design features are incorporated into new building developments. We also create habitat for birds, animals and plants, and are measuring and reducing paper use and printing.
- 4.3 We will bravely challenge ourselves to be role models of sustainability - whether we are College leaders, staff or students. It is our collective responsibility and what we expect of each other.
- 4.4 **We commit** to understanding our baseline carbon footprint and setting a strategy to reduce it over time. This will mean focussing on being energy smart, responsibly managing our purchasing, waste and travel, and switching to more sustainable products and services.

Learning and teaching

- 4.5 Learning about sustainability is important for life. Topics including climate change, the importance of nature and social justice are encompassed in our lessons to some degree. But we need to do more.
- 4.6 We know that jobs in sustainability-related fields will increasingly offer career opportunities. Through careers education, we will support our students to understand and get ready for these opportunities in emerging fields such as renewable energy.
- 4.7 **We commit** to evolving our teaching to encompass sustainability at every opportunity and to upskill our staff to raise their awareness and knowledge in sustainability.

Recognise, share and report

- 4.8 Sharing and recognising what we do in sustainability helps create awareness, inspiration, preservation and pride. It will help us to meet our sustainability purpose and principles.
- 4.9 Cabra's Green Team works on promoting and supporting sustainability initiatives in the College and recognising student achievements.
- 4.10 We will also broaden our reach by engaging and communicating with families.
- 4.11 **We commit** to including sustainability-related news and information in formal College publications to inform our community. We will also commit to College-wide recognition for sustainability.

5 Implementation

- 5.1 To deliver on this policy, we will maintain an action plan so that sustainability is ultimately integrated into Cabra's strategy and decision-making processes, across the College and into how we go about our daily College life.
- 5.2 Our internal policies and practices will be reviewed and, where appropriate, amended to include relevant aspects of sustainability.
- 5.3 This Policy and the delivery of it is the overall responsibility of Cabra's Executive Leadership Team. Staff and students are responsible for embracing this policy and encouraging and supporting each other to be more sustainable. We are all responsible for openly demonstrating our sustainability principles.

6 Related Documents and References

- 6.1 Francis. (2015). *Laudato Si', On Care for Our Common Home* [Encyclical]. Retrieved from https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

7 Revision Record

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