

**St Francis of Assisi Primary School Warrawong Reflection -2022**

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School is a co-educational Catholic School providing an education for students in Kindergarten to Year 6 which has serviced the educational needs of the community of Warrawong for more than 50 years. As a group of people we gather to express Christian values in education and in our daily lives we bear witness to the faith we share and nurture. Our team of teachers and support staff work together to support the local community in the provision of a quality education. The function of our school is not restricted to simply educating our children, but includes a pastoral role with both the children and their families.

St Francis of Assisi School is multicultural in its composition and is thereby influenced by the various traditions and aspirations of many nationalities.

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School is an engaged Catholic community, inspired by the Franciscan spirit, empowering all learners to reach their full potential. This vision encourages every student, every staff member, our parents and friends to perpetuate the Franciscan charism that calls all to environmental stewardship of the planet. At St Francis we see that it is crucial that we respond to the challenges of Laudato Si’ by taking action to be sustainable stewards and responsible citizens that contribute to the building of a better future for humanity and our planet.

This School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) is a tool that will enable 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 St Francis of Assisi 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 SEMP is formulated.

Since 2015 following the release of Laudato Si’, St Francis of Assisi Warrawong, has taken seriously Pope Francis’ prophetic call for an ecological conversion and has proactively responded in a strategic, planned approach whereby sustainable practices and ecological values are promoted and supported across the system of schools in the Wollongong diocese.

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)

This strategic approach has involved St Francis of Assisi Warrawong embedding ecological values into school programs and practices that promote an ecological and sustainable culture, encouraging everyone to live out his/her ecological vocation and engage in caring for our common home.

St Francis of Assisi Warrawong follows the CEDoW Environmental Education Action Policy. Each

year, every grade actively participates in writing and implementing a unit of work based upon the

 requirements of the Environmental Education Action Policy.

 St Francis of Assisi Warrawong has completed a School Environment Action Plan (SEMP1).

 We have planned and are implementing the goals outlined in our SEMP11 which began in

 2021 and will be ongoing until 2024..

 The staff at St Francis of Assisi Warrawong participated in a Staff Spirituality Days, “Who is

 my neighbour? Called to ecological Conversion,”and” Listening to the Spirit of the Great

 Land” led by Beth Riolo. This Professional Development guided the staff towards understanding

 eco-spirituality, eco-theology and ecological conversion.

 St Francis of Assisi Warrawong had planned, submitted and received three CEDoW

 Environmental Education Grants from this program.

* 2018 - Sustainable School Garden
* 2020 - Waste Management and Sustainable School Garden (Reduce and Produce)
* 2022 - New and Renewable Gardens

 Mrs Sandra Briscoe a staff member at St Francis of Assisi School, is an active and current

 Member of Wollongong Environment Network (WEN) that aims to support school

 communities respond to Laudato Si’ and implement environmental stewardship and

 sustainability.

 In 2021, St Francis of Assisi Warrawong received a formal recognition by EarthCare Australia

 recognising that the school was certified as Level 3 and is now committed to a whole school of

 ecological change.

St Francis of Assisi Warrawong is Inspired by the Australian Catholic Bishops’ Social Justice Statement – Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor and [Bishop Brian’s Diocesan Pastoral Message](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1NZ8KksizLM-c4Dh5wwpxlPBXe2NqyXFK).

* + **Connect the values of your school with the Laudato Si’ Goals…**

RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH

* involvement in Clean up schools Day
* World Environment Day
* World Day Of Prayer For Creation
* Waste management - Recycling and composting

RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE POOR

* engagement in Project Compassion
* Vinnies Return and Earn``
* Gold coin days are organised like Crazy Socks, Pyjama Day, Crazy hair day with money donated to Vinnies.
* contribute to food collection and items throughout the year - St Vincent de Paul

ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

* Solar Panels
* digital communication instead of paper
* sensor lights in the school building

ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES

* soft plastic recycling
* composting
* recycling bins in every classroom and staffroom
* encouraging changes to catering using paper plates, cutlery and keep cups and reusable water bottles for staff and students.
* installation of water bottle refilling stations

ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

* participation in WEN contact PD days
* WEN Primary Students PD day
* Sustainability Scope and Sequence ensuring each grade implements an ecological unit.
* informing parents about ecological issues via the newsletter

ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY

* Liturgies for significant Environmental Days
* Staff Development Days linked to ecological conversion

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND EMPOWERMENT

* Clean up School Day
* St Vincent de Paul collections of food and clothing
* Vinnies Return and Earn
* Liase with Wollongong City Council to help establish the school gardens.

**FOCUS AREA GOALS**

St Francis of Assisi School Warrawong has engaged in the Assisi Framework, developed by Catholic EarthCare Australia. This framework has focus areas and goals regarding ecological conversion that is used as a framework in all ecological initiatives and plans.

These five focus areas and related actions are:

 1. Whole School Planning

 *Environmental Plan (SEMP), Strategic Plan, Governance, Policy, Environmental Team*

 2. Religious Dimension

 *Catholic Social Teaching, Celebration, Liturgy, Prayer, Embedding of eco-theology and Catholic Social*

 *Teaching principles in RE Curriculum, Formation in eco-spirituality & theology*

 3. Teaching & Learning

 *Curriculum, Syllabus Perspectives & Materials, Professional Development, Environmental education*

 *integrated into all stages and KLAs, Scope & Sequences for environmental education, Curriculum links*

 *to environmental action in school*

 4. Ethical Resource Use

 *Individual* *and School Ecological Footprints, Administrative Practices, Waste Management – recycling,*

 *Green catering, purchasing, Audits*

 5. Caring for Country

 *Physical surrounds & Maintenance, Biodiversity - Grounds developed to enhance environmental*

 *education – eg. “Outdoor Living Classroom”, outdoor education, Landscaping (equipment, shade, safety*

 *and seating reflect an awareness and consideration of environmental impact)*

 6. Community Relationships

 *Networks and Partnerships, Student Life*