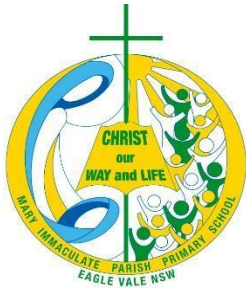




CATHOLIC EDUCATION
DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG



LSAP Reflection - 2022

Mary Immaculate Parish Primary School

Eagle Vale

Overview

St Mary's Catholic School began in 1986 and was built in three stages. The present Kindergarten, Year 1, 2 was stage 1, the present Year 3, 4 and administration block was stage 2 and the present Year 5 and 6 block was stage 3.

St Mary's school has a Marist tradition with a great devotion to Mary as the Oblate Fathers' serve the parish of Mary Immaculate Eagle Vale. Mrs Marie Debusch (1993-1996) was the first lay Principal. Mrs Luisa Tobin assumed Principalship from 1997-2012. Mr Don Spencer from (2012 - 2019). Mrs Tina Murray is currently Principal.

On December 19, 1999 Bishop Philip Wilson officially opened the Parish church.

In 2005, Bishop Peter Ingham decreed that the school name would change from St Mary's to Mary Immaculate Parish Primary School. This change further strengthened the strong ties with the parish. Hence, the new school logo reflects a merging of the Mary Immaculate parish logo and the previous St Mary's logo.

Our school motto – 'Christ Our Way and Life' challenges us to make Christ a reality to all and invites each of us to take seriously the call of ecological conversion to act with justice for God's creation. We need to take seriously the challenge from Laudato Si' to care for our common home. At Mary Immaculate we see that it is crucial that we take action to be sustainable stewards and responsible citizens that contribute to the building of a better future for humanity and our planet. We are a school of faith, a community of believers united in Christ.

Our School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) 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. We will use our SEMP to inform our engagement with the Laudato Si' Action Platform. At Mary Immaculate 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 the SEMP and LSAP documentation is formulated.

Context for Mary Immaculate Parish Primary School

Mary Immaculate Parish Primary School is part of the Diocese of Wollongong. It is located in Eagle Vale NSW. Eagle Vale is part of the Macarthur region, 56 kilometres south-west of the Sydney central business district.

Most of the students have traditionally been drawn from local surrounding suburbs, such as Eagle Vale, Claymore, Raby and Eschol Park. With the expansion of the new suburbs of Gregory Hills and Emerald Hills the school has seen increased enrolments from these areas. As a result the school is growing from a two streamed school to a three streamed school, hence the ongoing need for continued building and expansion of school facilities.

The school has experienced major building expansion that has included building additional classrooms, administration area, canteen and major changes to grounds and landscaping areas. This SEMP is reflective of these changes.

Key Actions of CEDoW that have impacted our School

- Appointment of Professional Officer in 2016 to lead system response to Laudato Si' and the promotion of ecological conversion
- Development and implementation of an Environmental Education Action Policy
- School Environment Management Plans (SEMP)
- Professional Development and Staff Formation in eco-spirituality, eco-theology and ecological conversion
- CEDoW Environmental Education Grants Program
- The [Wollongong Environment Network \(WEN\)](#) that aims to support school communities respond to Laudato Si' and implement environmental stewardship and sustainability
- [WEN Environment Matters Blog](#) - documenting, celebrating and sharing the ecological conversion journey of schools and system

Implementation of the Environmental Education Policy

In CEDoW's [Environmental Education Policy](#) (released in 2018) there are expectations that all systemic schools are required to address. A key expectation involves planning.

1.4 Develop a School Environment Management Plan (SEMP) that:

1.4.1 is informed by the six areas of the ASSISI Framework: *Whole School Planning; Religious Dimension; Learning and Teaching; Ethical Resource Use; Caring for Country; and Community Relationships*

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

1.4.3 is reviewed and updated on a 3-year cycle

School Environment Management Plans (SEMP)

From 2017 - 2019 Mary Immaculate Eagle Vale engaged in the SEMP process. The following is an overview of significant environmental actions and initiatives undertaken during the first SEMP cycle.

- Creation of vegetable gardens.
- Waste free Lunch boxes for Kinder cohorts (2019 -2020) - funded through EEA Grant.
- Monitoring of energy and water use across the School.
- Document the incorporation of ecological themes in liturgy and prayer and acknowledge some key environmental days. (Ongoing)
- Encouraging staff ownership and responsibility in promoting and supporting the school's ecological conversion journey.
- Engagement in professional development for environmental education - identifying cross curriculum

links for sustainability, programming, scope and sequences.

SEMP II was planned, written and begun in 2020 and will be utilised for our school's Laudato Si' Action Plan.

Level 3 Certification Earthcare School

- In 2021, the Mary Immaculate Eagle Vale school community received [Level 3 Certification](#) as an Earthcare school.

Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement

Inspired by Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement – Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor and Bishop Brian's Diocesan Pastoral Message, we have used the following two documents to guide our journey towards ecological conversion.

- [Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement – Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor](#)
- [Bishop Brian's Diocesan Pastoral Message](#)

Professional Development and Staff Formation in eco-spirituality, eco-theology and ecological conversion:

- Our school is a member of the WEN and has a designated WEN Teacher Contact. The WEN contacts annually attend professional development opportunities with all primary and secondary WEN contacts from the diocese.
- The WEN contacts meet with the CEDoW WEN Coordinator twice a year to complete check-ins with our SEMP.
- Regular meetings with staff on the environment committee.
- Celebrating World Environment Day and the Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.
- Working towards: Whole school scope and sequence to be updated regularly and collaborated on by all teachers to identify the environmental links to curriculum.

Involvement in CEDoW Environmental Education Grants Program:

Our school has accessed the CEDoW Environmental Education Grants program that aims to support Diocesan school communities in their journey of ecological conversion, assisting schools in specific environmental projects that are strategically planned for and connected to each school's SEMP (School Environment Management Plan). We have had two successful grant applications.

2019 - War On Waste Champions! Each Kindergarten student who was starting school in 2019, received a reusable rubbish free lunch box from Smash Nude Food Mover range. Students were provided with education around being environmentally friendly and being mindful of the environment.

2021 - Irrigation System - Cooling Schools Project. Our school was chosen to be a Champion School for the Cooling the Schools project. 200 plants (shrubs and trees) were planted in an unusable area on our playground. The grant funded the installation of an irrigation system to support the healthy growth of these plants.

Our Response to the Laudato Si' Goals:

RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH: We have an environmental committee to address issues of biodiversity and sustainability around the school. We plan to reinvigorate.

RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE POOR: Our school is involved in St Vincent de Paul, the winter appeal and Caritas and Project Compassion which raises funds and connects our students with world wide issues.

ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS: Staff are encouraged to make sure all lights, televisions and air conditioning is switched off at the end day.

ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES: Staff practises: We are encouraged to reduce printing that is not needed. The school has paper recycling containers in each classroom and staffroom. We are encouraged to reduce the amount of laminating used across the school.

ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION: We have established an ecological leadership team with our WEN teacher. This student team works with the WEN Contact and Religious Education Coordinator to assist with Environmental Masses, Liturgies and the celebration of significant environmental days.

ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY: Our school has participated in spirituality days that have an ecological focus eg Who is my neighbour. A call to ecological conversion. The school plans to participate in further spirituality days in the future. Religious Education programs have ecological themes embedded into them.