



Mary's Mount Primary School Sustainable Event Guide

Mary's Mount Primary School strive to be responsible users of the Earth's resources which we believe are part of God's creation. We are committed to reducing our waste to landfill and one of the ways we can do this is by encouraging the minimisation of waste generated during community events. We are mindful to always make attempts to minimise our waste generated during community events.

Events in focus

Any school community event, for example: Breakfast in the Park, P & F social functions, staff PD days held within the school grounds, community breakfasts, morning or afternoon teas, sacramental dinners, after school hours meetings, student winter hot chocolate days, sundowners, graduation events.

Here is a list of alternative suggestions and notes to reduce our waste at our events.

Items to Avoid	Alternative suggestions	Notes
Single used plastic bottled water, plastic soft drink bottles or cans	Use larger soft drink / water bottles (multiple serve) and recycle any bottles or cans in co-mingled recycling. Lids must be removed and placed in our Community Recycling Hub to be recycled.	Soft drink cans are a preferred choice over plastic. Once used they can be placed in our charity collection bins for Wheelchairs for Kids. All remaining liquid must be emptied.
Single use plastic plates and cutlery	Use reusable plates and cutlery. <i>(please see *notes at the bottom of this table for details)</i> Use compostable alternatives to single use plastic (e.g. paper/cardboard, bamboo)	If using compostable alternatives, they must be placed in the landfill bin due to food contamination. Compostable is still a better option than plastic.
Single use plastic cups or paper cups which are plastic lined (e.g. take-away coffee cups)	Use recyclable paper cups that are not plastic lined. Encourage participants to bring their own reusable cups such as a Keep-Cup. The Keep-Cup can be rinsed by the owner after use and taken home.	Recyclable paper cups will need to be ordered ahead of time because it is not readily available in WA. It will need to be sent from the Eastern States.
Single use plastic straws	Use paper straws	
Single use plastic or foil food containers (aluminium foil baking trays, take-away tubs)	Replace with re-usable ceramic dishes or plastic tubs/ Tupperware. Names must be placed on the bottom of the dish to ensure it is easily returned to the owner.	If single use plastic or foil containers are bought in reuse them when possible or recycle them by placing them in co-mingled recycling bin at school or home.
Single use wrappers or plastic (cling film, aluminium foil, zip lock bags)	Use re-usable ceramic dishes or plastic tubs/ Tupperware with lids or reusable covers such as Bees Wax Wraps.	If soft plastics are used they can be collected and taken to the local community recycling point (Red Cycle bins at Woolworths or Coles) Foil can be placed in the commingled recycling bin. If any wrapper is contaminated with food and is unable to be washed it will need to be placed into a landfill bin.
Food waste	If the food leftovers cannot be sent home with a family to use please place the food waste in our school worm farm and compost bins.	No meat, onion or citrus is to be placed in the food waste bins. Larger quantities of bread cannot be placed in the food waste bins.
Balloons	Use bunting or other re-usable decorations	If balloons are used ensure that balloons do not escape into the environment. It is preferred that helium filled balloons are never used at an event.
Plastic bags - including **biodegradable/degradable bags	Replace with paper bags or reusable bags.	**Compostable bags are a better choice than plastic or biodegradable bags.

*MMPS have crockery and cutlery that may be available to borrow for events within the school grounds. A volunteer group of community members will be needed to wash and put away items at the completion of the event.

** Biodegradable and degradable plastics break down into smaller pieces (micro plastics) but the plastic remains in the environment. Compostable items comprise organic matter that breaks down to become soil. Plastic that is biodegradable/degradable should be avoided and must go in the landfill bin.

Further information and Contacts

For helpful online information go to the Earth Carers Links <https://www.rgang.org.au/community/earth-carers/earth-carer-links.aspx> or the Plastic Free July Website <https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/>

If you have any specific questions, please contact a member of the MMPS Sustainability Committee or our staff in the school office can refer you. Please refer to Own Your Impact WA through Facebook – Own Your Impact is a campaign by the WA Government designed to get all of us thinking about our own personal contribution to waste. It encourages individuals and families to embrace small and significant behaviour changes towards consumption, recycling and reuse.

Together we can make a difference.

Written and approved in January 2020