

Use of Air Conditioning

Building and Grounds Policy

St Pius School strives to Live, Love and Learn together in an environment which is safe, secure and appropriately maintained.

Rationale

Air conditioning has become essential in most settings to ensure a pleasant, comfortable and safe learning environment. St Pius is committed to efficient, cost effective and environmentally sustainable implementation of air conditioning within the school.

In an educational setting, research indicates that climate can affect students concentration levels. The brain tends to diminish its ability to concentrate at temperatures above 28 degrees and by the time the room temperature gets to 30 degrees, the brain is putting all its energy into temperature regulating activities, making concentration on literacy and numeracy difficult. This policy sets out the expectations in the efficient and safe use of air conditioning.

Efficient Use of Air Conditioning

The efficient use of air conditioning is everyone's responsibility. The St Pius community is collectively responsible for the ongoing use of air conditioning to ensure the most practical, efficient and responsible use of such devices.

Use air conditioning only when and where necessary. Air conditioners should not be used unless the ambient room temperature reaches 28°C.

Classroom air conditioners should not be set to lower than 24°C in Summer.

Turn off air conditioning when not in use. Ensure systems are turned off when the building is unoccupied, for example overnight and during weekends.

Ensure doors and windows are closed when appropriate. However, allowing fresh air into the classrooms is important in fostering a healthy environment.

Use fans as an alternative to enable air movement and reduce the need for air conditioning.

Put the remote control in a safe place. If the remote control is not wall mounted, it should be stored in the correct holder.

Minimise classroom heat by using blinds, avoiding unnecessary lighting and utilising fans.

Ongoing Management, Maintenance and Funding

There will be an air conditioning amount included in the General Purpose Levy to be paid by all St Pius families.

All air conditioning equipment will be maintained on a regular basis, to ensure efficient operation and reliability. Proper filter maintenance will be carried out to help avoid energy wastage and overwork of equipment. Filters will be maintained or changed on a regular basis as recommended by the manufacturer.

To offset the use of air-conditioning, St Pius will develop a Sustainable Futures Strategy reflective of church teachings and informed by broader evidence. Eg SEMP (School Environment Management Plan) Water, Energy, Waste, Health & Wellbeing, Greening & Biodiversity and Transport.

- Quality and workmanship
- Safety