

1. Rationale:

Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world. Skin cancer in children is very rare, about two in a million. However, the sun exposure children receive in Australia increases the risk of developing melanoma and other skin cancers when they are adults.

Sunburn is caused by the UV radiation which is not related to heat. Levels of ultraviolet radiation are particularly high in many locations around Australia.

Our SunSmart policy has been developed to ensure that all children attending this school are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful ultra-violet rays of the sun. It is to be implemented throughout the year but with emphasis in Term 1, Term 2 (**until end of April**), Term 3 (**start 1st September**) and Term 4.

2. Aims:

The aims of this policy are to promote:

- An awareness of the degrees of exposure to the sun and the need for protective measures.
- The need for positive attitudes and responsible behaviour towards skin protection.
- Priorities which can reduce the incidence of skin cancer.

3. Implementation:

- 3.1 All children will be required to wear only broad rimmed school sunhats when outside
 - during Term 1 and Term 2 (until end of April)
 - in Term 3, beginning 1st September and until the end of the school year.Any child not wearing a hat will be required to remain in the shaded areas of the school grounds.
- 3.2 Term 1 and Term 2 (until end of April), Term 3, beginning 1st September until the end of the school year are designated SunSmart times. According to SunSmart hats are to be worn from the 1st September.
- 3.3 Students must provide their own SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen. Staff will also be encouraged to use sunscreen appropriately.
- 3.4 It is not the responsibility of the school to provide sunscreen
- 3.5 Encourage children to use available areas of shade for outdoor activities.
- 3.6 Encourage staff and parents to act as role models by practising SunSmart behaviours.
- 3.7 Incorporate programs on skin cancer into the curriculum at all year levels.
- 3.8 Regularly reinforce SunSmart behaviour in a positive way through newsletters, parents meetings, and student and teacher activities.
- 3.9 Organise outdoor activities to be held in areas of shade whenever possible and outside the peak UV periods of 11am - 3pm during daylight savings time.
- 3.10 Promote the playing of inter-school sport in terms one and four in the mornings at the start of the school day.
- 3.11 Conduct outdoor student assemblies outside the peak UV periods.
- 3.12 Work toward increasing the number of shelters and trees so as to provide adequate shade in the school grounds.
- 3.13 Incorporate the sale of low cost, broad rimmed sun hats into the Uniform Shop's responsibility. The Uniform Shop provides the officially prescribed school hat which meets SunSmart requirements.
- 3.14 Children must not share hats in order to prevent an outbreak of head lice across the school.
- 3.15 Promote the wearing of hats during curriculum incursions and excursions for example; School Camp and Interschool Sports events.
- 3.16 **Extreme Heat Days-** Leadership will inform the whole school community regarding a 'hot day' timetable

4. Evaluation:

- Sampling of number of children wearing broad rimmed sunhats during Terms 1, 2, 3 and 4.
- Availability of shade areas and trees.
- To monitor the number of children who are wearing hats.
- To monitor the number of children who are not wearing hats and assign the appropriate uniform violation.
- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's ongoing policy and process review cycle.

References and Related Documents:

- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- Education and Training Reform Act 2006: Sch.5 Reg. 1 (1.2)
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<http://www.sunsmart.com.au/communities/early-childhood-primary-schools/renew-membership>

This policy was ratified by School Council in November 2014