

Rationale

Families, schools and communities share responsibility for the health, safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and young people in their care. The school community, including families, work together to take all reasonable actions to protect students from risks of harm that can be reasonably predicted due to ultraviolet radiation from the sun.

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Skin cancer, including melanoma and non-melanoma, is the most common cancer in Australia.

Exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation in childhood is a major risk factor for the development of skin cancer later in life. By implementing a best-practice Sun Protection Policy, schools can help protect staff and students from UV radiation and teach students good sun protection habits from an early age to reduce their risk.

Processes**1 Scheduling outdoor activities**

Daily sun protection is considered when planning daily activities and special events, including excursions.

2 Shade

The school community is committed to providing shade in areas where students congregate, during recess and lunch and when teaching outdoors and playing sport where appropriate.

Students are encouraged to use available shade when outside.

Shade assessments are conducted to monitor existing shade structures and determine future shade needs.

The availability of shade is considered for all outdoor activities and excursions, including portable, natural and built shade.

3 Hats, uniforms and sunglasses

All students are required to wear SunSmart school hats and allowed to wear sunglasses that protect their face, neck and ears when outside for play, sport and teaching.

Students without a SunSmart hat are required to play in the shade.

Wearing of school hats is taught explicitly as part of the PBL program.

The school community considers sunsafety when selecting school clothing styles for the school and sports uniforms.

4 Sunscreen

Students are encouraged to apply sunscreen in appropriate situations where they will be outdoors for extended periods.

Sunscreen is considered as part of risk assessments for changes of routine and is made available for staff and students where appropriate.

5 Curriculum

Staff include sun safety principals across Key Learning Areas in all year levels.

Students understand why sun safety is important and learn how to take effective sun protection actions.

6 Informing the school community

The school community are informed of the sun protection policy and procedures.

Sun protection information, policy updates and resources are communicated regularly through a range of channels, including our website, newsletters, staff meetings and school assemblies.

Families and visitors are encouraged to role model positive SunSmart behaviours when attending the school.

7 Review

The school community regularly monitors and reviews how effectively they implement the sun protection policy.