



DALKEITH PRIMARY SCHOOL

SUNSMART POLICY

Introduction:

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Sun exposure during childhood and adolescence is a risk factor for cancer later in life. Skin cancers account for over 80% of all new cancers diagnosed in Australia each year. As students are at school during times when UV radiation levels are highest, schools play a major role in minimizing students UV exposure.

This policy has been developed to ensure that all students and staff attending our school are protected from skin damage caused by harmful UV radiation.

Whilst this policy is to be implemented from the beginning of September through to the end of May, children are to wear the school hat all year round.

This policy is to be applied to all school activities, including sports carnivals, excursions, and camps.

Objectives:

- Increase student and community awareness about skin cancer and sun protection.
- Encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures throughout the year.
- Work towards a safe school environment that provides adequate protection for students, staff, and the school community.
- Assist students to be responsible for their own sun protection.
- Ensure all families, staff and students are informed about the Sun Smart policy.

Policy:

All members of the school will use a combination of sun protection measures throughout the day to ensure they are well protected. Particular care needs to be taken between 10am and 3pm when UV levels are at their **peak**. Consider rescheduling events to avoid peak UV periods.

Clothing

- Students are required to wear the school hat whenever they are outside. (E.g., recess, lunch, sport). Caps and visors will not be permitted.

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- Staff are to actively model good sun protection by wearing a broad brimmed or bucket hat while on duty and on outside activities.
- The school will offer on the uniform list sun protective clothing items as part of the school uniform. (Collars, UV protection fabric, school hats).

Shade

- Children are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
- Children not wearing the school hat will be required to play in the shade.
- Shade provision to be considered in all plans for future buildings and grounds.
- Organise outdoor activities in areas with plenty of shade where possible.

Sunscreen

- Encourage the daily application of sunscreen before school and prior to the lunch break.
- Provide SPF 30+ Broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for students and staff use.

Curriculum

- Incorporate programs on skin cancer prevention and sun safety in the curriculum at all year levels.
- Regularly reinforce Sun Smart behaviour in a positive way through newsletters, meetings, and assemblies and on student enrolment.
- Ensure the Sun Smart policy is reflected in the planning of all outdoor events.

Evaluation

The School Board and Executive Leadership Team will review the effectiveness of this policy each year. They will:

- Review the Sun Smart behaviour of students, staff, parents, and visitors and make recommendations for improvement.
- Assess shade provision and usage and make recommendations for increases in shade provision.
- Update and promote curriculum material relevant to Sun Smart activities

Conclusion:

By implementation of and adherence to this policy, the school is ensuring that the potential risk of skin damage from the sun to students and staff is minimized.

Reviewed February 2023