

Sun Protection Policy

1. Rationale

Too much exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun causes sunburn, skin and eye damage and increases the risk of developing skin cancer. Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world.

Adolescence and childhood are critical periods during which sun exposure is likely to contribute to skin cancer later in life. It is estimated that more than 75% of all skin cancers could be prevented by practicing sun protection in childhood and adolescence.

This policy has been developed as part of our commitment to a safe school environment, to reduce the risk to students and staff of exposure to UV radiation from the sun.

2. Objectives

The objectives of this sun protection policy are to:

- Increase student and whole-school awareness of skin cancer and other damage caused by exposure to UV radiation;
- Work towards a safe school environment that provides shade and other sun protective measures for the entire school community;
- Encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV index levels reach 3 and above;
- Ensure that families and new staff are informed of the school's sun protection policy.

3. Implementation – August to April

The following strategies will be implemented from mid August until the end of April, as this is when UV index levels are high enough (3 and above) to damage the skin and lead to skin cancer:

3.1 Clothing

Sun protective clothing is included in our school uniform/sports uniform in the following ways:

- The College summer shirts have elbow length sleeves and a collar that sits close to the neck, above the collarbone.
- The summer uniform includes shorts and a dress that both reach the knee.
- The sports uniform includes a shirt that covers the shoulders well and a collar that sits close to the neck, above the collarbone.
- The sports uniform includes shorts to the mid-thigh.
- Students may wear long pants all year round.
- Staff are encouraged to wear close fitting, wrap-around sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard 1067 (Sunglasses: Category 2, 3 or 4) and cover as much of the eye area as possible.

3.2 Sunscreen

- SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen is available for staff and students' use at each campus office and students are encouraged to bring their own sunscreen to school.
- Staff encourage students to use sunscreen and provide time for students to apply sunscreen before going outside.

3.3 Scheduling

- This policy is considered in the planning of all outdoor events such as assemblies, camps, excursions and sporting events.

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- Where possible, outdoor activities/events will be scheduled earlier in the morning or later in the afternoon, or indoor venues will be considered.

3.4 Role modelling

- Staff are encouraged to act as role models by using a combination of sun protection measures (sun protective clothing and hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and shade) when outside.
- Families and visitors are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures (sun protective clothing and hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and shade) when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.

4. Ongoing Implementation

4.1 Shade

- The College Board ensures shade is available in the school grounds particularly in areas where students congregate, eg. lunch areas, canteen, outdoor lesson areas.
- The College Board ensures shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- Processes for the planning of outdoor activities and excursions include the consideration of shade.
- Students are encouraged to use shade when outside particularly if they are not wearing appropriate hats or clothing.

4.2 Curriculum

- Sun protection and educational programs are incorporated into appropriate areas of the school curriculum.
- The Sunsmart campaign 'Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek & Slide' and sun protection guidelines are included in student planners every year.

4.3 Professional development for staff

- Sun protection is included in staff training to enable staff to work safely outdoors and to encourage them to be positive role models.
- Sun protection information is included in the staff handbook.
- New staff are given a copy of this policy.

5. Communication

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Provided to staff at induction, in the staff handbook and via Sharepoint
- Provided to students and parents in the enrolment pack, student planner, school newsletter and website
- Available to the wider community via our website.

6. Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed every three years as part of the school policy review cycle.