

POLICY: SUNSMART POLICY

PURPOSE

Our SunSmart Policy has been developed to encourage children attending Brentwood Park P.S. to protect themselves from skin and eye damage caused by the ultra-violet rays of the sun. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life. Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, with two in three Australians developing some form of skin cancer before age 70.

This policy is to be implemented year round, with particular emphasis between mid -August and 1st May. In teaching our students about their skin and how to protect it, we aim to develop independent sun protection skills to help them to be responsible for their own protection.

AIMS

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours that reflect a healthy UV exposure balance, ensuring some sun exposure for vitamin D while minimising the risk of skin cancer.

Our SunSmart policy is aimed at:

- children and staff wearing hats that protect the face, neck and ears whenever they are outside. e.g. recess, lunch, physical education lessons, excursions and camps between mid-August and 1st May.
- encouraging parents and the school community to act as role models by practising Sun Smart behaviours.
- working with parents/guardians to encourage them to provide SPF 30+ broad spectrum water resistant sunscreen for children to use when outdoors.
- scheduling outdoor activities before 11am and after 3pm, in shaded areas where possible, between mid- August and 1st May.
- working towards increasing the number of shelters and trees so as to provide adequate shade in the school grounds.
- educating children of the health risks through the curriculum.

IMPLEMENTATION

- All children will wear an approved uniform broad-brimmed hat whenever they are outside. This will be mandatory from mid-August to 1st May.
- Children are expected to wear school uniform, except on free dress days, however children must still wear sun smart appropriate clothing.
- Children who do not have a hat during the required period will be restricted to indoors.
- Teachers will address the issue of skin cancer through curriculum programs, such as 'Life Education Van' and 'Learning and Growing Together', at the beginning of each year.
- All staff must wear hats when outdoors, while on yard duty or when conducting sport or physical education classes. Staff members are to act as suitable role models between mid-August and 1st May.
- The Buildings and Grounds Committee will continually make provision for adequate tree shade and other shaded areas.
- Parents will be encouraged to provide children with sunscreen, which must be independently applied.
- Sunglasses will be encouraged to be worn.

REVIEW

Policy will be reviewed in 2022.

Approved by School Council 25/6/2019