

SUNSMART

POLICY

Rationale:

- The purpose of the Sunsmart policy is to raise awareness in the school community of the causes of skin cancer and to promote desirable strategies for minimising the effects of ultra-violet radiation and prolonged exposure to the sun.

Aims:

- To minimise the effects on staff and children of exposure to the sun.
- To educate parents and children of the strategies by which exposure and its effects can be minimised.
- To regularly reinforce positive behaviours in regard to sun exposure.
- To make arrangements within the school which minimise the time which children and staff are exposed to the sun in peak ultra-violet periods.
- To ensure the provision of adequate shaded areas for the children.
- To integrate programs on skin cancer and other Sunsmart issues into the Health Education program in classrooms.

Implementation:

- The Sunsmart policy is principally the responsibility of the Health and Physical Education Committee.
- The Sunsmart policy will operate with the guidance and assistance of literature and other information from the Anti-Cancer Council. Relevant sections of the Health and Physical Education Section of the Curriculum and Standards Framework and Course Advice will assist in developing relevant classroom programs.
- The Sunsmart policy will operate from September to the end of April.
- The Sunsmart Policy will operate under the directions included in the School Dress Code which includes Sun protective clothing. The following guidelines will also apply in its implementation.
- Regular newsletter articles will provide factual information about the causes and or prevention of skin cancer
- When enrolling children parents will be:
 - informed of Sunsmart policy
 - encouraged to provide SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for their child's use
- The number of shaded areas provided throughout the school ground will be steadily increased through planned process.
- All first aid kits should contain 30+ sunscreen as a 'back up' resource to staff and student personal supplies.
- Class lessons at each level within the Health Education program should emphasise the desirability of appropriate clothing, behaviour and protective items during the periods when ultra-violet radiation is at its most dangerous.
- Where the outdoor temperature has exceeded 35 degrees at the school site, an Extreme Weather period of time will be declared where students will be excluded from being outdoors. The Principal (or delegated person) will have discretion to override this exclusion if he/she believes circumstances do not warrant exclusion (eg. Cloud cover). This exclusion may be overridden for camps and excursions if the exclusion would cause operational difficulties.
- Students should wear appropriate hats (that shade the face, neck and ears) and be encouraged to apply SPF 30+ broad spectrum sunscreen when participating in outdoor activities. From September to the end of April the wearing of an orange bucket hats will be compulsory for all outdoor activities (refer to school dress code).
- Staff will act as role models in demonstrating desirable habits and wearing of suitable clothing.
- Children will be encouraged to use available shade areas when appropriate.
- Children will be reminded to apply SPF 30+ broad spectrum sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen buddies).

- In relevant matters, the Health and Physical Education Committee will refer to the Uniform Committee and/or the Buildings and Grounds Committee. The Sunsmart policy will provide support for and be supported by, the policies of these two committees.
- The resources required for the Sunsmart policy to operate effectively vary widely. Resource acquisition is the responsibility of several different committees.
- Uniform and dress issues will be addressed by the Uniform Committee. It is the responsibility of this committee, under the direction of the School Council, to implement the Uniform Policy. Aspects of the Uniform policy relate directly to the Sunsmart policy and it is the responsibility of the parents of the children to ensure their children are provided with appropriate clothing.
- Buildings and Grounds issues such as the provision of shaded areas in the playground will be the responsibility of the Buildings and Grounds Committee.
- Curriculum issues will be addressed by the Health and Physical Education Committee.

Evaluation:

Evaluation of the Sunsmart Policy will be principally the responsibility of the Health and Physical Education Committee. Some aspects will be divided amongst other responsible committees. The curriculum aspects of the policy will be addressed and evaluated by the Health and Physical Education Committee and assessment will be the responsibility of classroom teachers as part of their normal evaluation process.

- This policy was last ratified by School Council in 2018.