

Adapt this policy in consultation with your school community to suit your school environment.

Somerly Primary School

Broad Policy Statement:

Overexposure to the sun during childhood and adolescent is an important contributing factor to the development of skin cancer later in life. As students are at school during times of peak ultraviolet (UV) radiation, schools can play a major role in creating a supportive environment that minimises exposure and encourages sun protective behaviours.

Our Sun Protection policy has been developed to ensure that all students, staff, parents and visitors attending *Somerly Primary School* are protected from skin damage caused by harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun. This policy is to be implemented when the forecast average monthly UV Index in our area is 3 or above (available from www.bom.gov.au). The sun protection practices outlined in this policy will be applied to all school activities, including sports carnivals, excursions and camps.

Outdoor Activities

- Ensure sun protection measures are applied to students and staff while outside when the UV Index is 3 or above.
- Timetable as many outdoor activities as possible such as assemblies, sport and physical education when the UV Index is below 3. When this is not possible activities should be scheduled as far from 12 noon as possible.
- Ensure that adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and outdoor events.

Shade

- Ensure there is adequate provision of shade within the school grounds for students and staff, by planting trees and building shade structures. Particularly in areas where students congregate, for example, lunch, canteen, outdoor lesson areas.
- Encourage staff and students to use shaded or covered areas when outside.

Hats

- Require students and staff to wear a wide brimmed, bucket style hat that protects the face, neck, ears and crown of the head whenever they are outside.
- Students without hats will remain protected from the sun and encouraged to play outside or in the library.
- Encourage parents and guests to wear broad-brimmed, bucket style hats when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.
- Require students, staff and parent helpers to wear broad-brimmed or bucket hats, sun protective clothing and sunscreen for all camps, sports and excursions. These items will be listed on the parent permission form.

Clothing

- The school uniform or dress code includes sun protective items that protects as much of the skin as possible such as shirts with collars and longer sleeves, and swim tops for swimming.
- Require staff and students to wear a rashie or similar top for swimming/water activities (may not be appropriate for competitive swimming)

Sunscreen

- Sunscreen is available and accessible to staff and students around the school grounds eg in the classroom, at the school office or canteen. Sunscreen is listed as an item students are required to buy for the school year
- Parents are encouraged to apply sunscreen before their child attends school.
- Sunscreen will be stored in a cool place, out of the sun.
- The occupational safety and health representative will monitor the expiry date of sunscreen and discard when out of date.

Role Modelling

- Staff, students and visitors will act as positive role models and demonstrate SunSmart behaviour when attending school by:
 - wearing a SunSmart hat (wide brimmed, bucket or legionnaires style)
 - applying SPF30 or higher broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen
 - using and promoting shade
 - wearing SunSmart clothing
 - wearing sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard 1067.

Excursions

- Sun protection will be considered when excursions are planned, specifically time of day and availability of shade.

Education

- Sun protection is part of the curriculum.

Information

- Sun protection information will be promoted to staff, families and visitors.
- Sun protection is promoted via newsletters, assemblies, daily messages, whole school activities, and parent and staff meetings.

Policy

- The sun protection policy will be made available to staff and parents.
- Parents are informed of this sun protection policy when they enrol their child/children.
- All new employees are briefed on the sun protection policy.
- The policy is monitored and reviewed annually.

Due for review March 2017

For more information please contact:

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