



Sunsmart Policy

Endorsed By Governing Council

The Australian population has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world.

Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun and much of the damage occurs during childhood and adolescence.

Being sun smart, reduces the life threatening but preventable dangers of skin cancer.

Schools have an obligation both to inform students of the dangers of exposure to the sun and to have preventive measures as part of their programmes.

AIMS

The aims of the Blackwood Primary School Sun Smart Policy are to promote among students, staff and parents:

- a positive attitude towards skin protection
- lifestyle practices which can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer and the number of related deaths
- personal responsibility for and decision making about skin protection

RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities outlined in this policy are for implementation during terms 1, 3 and 4 and when the UV is 3 and above. During May if there is an all-day outdoor activity staff and students are encouraged to check the UV.

STUDENTS:

- are expected to wear a wide brimmed or legionnaire type hat whenever they are involved in outside activities during Terms 1, 3 and 4. At other times students will wear a hat at the direction of the teacher when the UV is 3 and above.
- Those without a hat will remain under the front verandah or in shaded areas designated by staff.
- will be encouraged to provide and apply their own SPF 30 or higher, broad spectrum water resistant sunscreen 15 to 20 minutes before going outdoors and to re-apply it every two hours when outdoors. This action should be more frequent if swimming or perspiring. Sunscreens should not be shared with other students.
- will be encouraged to wear appropriate clothing for adequate skin protection when out of doors including going to and from school. This means wearing shirts with collars and at least elbow length sleeves, and longer style shorts/skirts.
- Will be encouraged to seek shade during break and leisure times.

STAFF:

- at their discretion, will be encouraged to schedule outdoor activities outside of the peak UV times of the day whenever possible, or conduct activities in the shade/indoors where possible.

- During May in Term 2 staff will use their discretion to require students to wear a hat if it is a clear sunny day with a UV rating of 3 and above, or if the students will be spending long periods of time outside.
- responsible for Physical Education programmes should ensure students wear a hat and that precautions are taken against sun exposure.
- will be required to take their outside activities in a shaded area.
- will act as role models by practising Sun Smart behaviour.
- will incorporate sun protection awareness information into school programmes and as part of the Health Education curriculum.
- will regularly remind the school community about this policy through both class and school newsletters.

PARENTS:

- on enrolment of their child at Blackwood Primary School, will be provided with a copy of this policy.
- will be expected to provide a suitable hat and clothing, in accordance with the uniform policy, for their child's use in all school related outdoor activities. Hat and uniform samples are on display at the school and available from the Uniform Shop.
- will be encouraged to provide SPF 30 or higher, broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for their child's use at school.
- are encouraged to act as positive role models for their children by practising skin protection behaviours.

SPORTS COACHES AND TEAM MANAGERS:

- will be positive role models with regard to sun and heat protective behaviours.
- will use and direct children to shaded areas in all possible/appropriate instances.
- will inform children under their care of the need for fluid intake and sources of cool water.

UNIFORM SHOP:

- will have appropriate clothing and head-wear on sale.

REVIEW OF THIS POLICY

Policy Prepared: Sept. 1998

Reviewed: Sept 2001, May 2003, Aug 2006, Aug 2007, September 2010 June 2013, June 2016

OTHER REFERENCES

- DECS Administration Instruction and Guidelines for Schools. (Section 3 Paragraph 88)
- DECS Occupational Health, Safety & Welfare Manual.
- Cancer Council SA