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**

**STUDENTS:**

- are expected to wear a wide brimmed or legionnaire type hat whenever they are involved in outside activities from September 1st until the end of Term 1. At other times students will wear a hat at the direction of the teacher.
- Those without a hat will remain in the shade under the front verandah outside the office during North play and in the shade outside the Library during South play
- will be encouraged to provide and apply their own sunscreen 10 to 15 minutes before going outdoors and to re-apply it every two hours if outdoors for a prolonged period of time. 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.

**STAFF:**

- at their discretion, will be encouraged to schedule outdoor activities before 10.00 a.m. and after 2.00 p.m. (11.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. daylight saving time), whenever possible.
- Between the start of Term 2 and September 1st staff will use their discretion to require students to wear a hat if it is a clear sunny day with a UV rating of above 3, 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 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**


**OTHER REFERENCES**

- DECS Administration Instruction and Guidelines for Schools. (Section 3 Paragraph 88)
- Anti-Cancer Foundation, School's Project Officer. (Unley).