

Sun protection in schools and early childhood education services

Purpose

All department school sites and early childhood education and care services have a sun protection policy in effect for school terms 1, 3 and 4 and whenever ultra violet (UV) radiation levels reach 3 or above. Sites must inform the school community including employees, students, parents and volunteers of the sun protection policy. Children and young people are encouraged to be responsible for their own sun protection.

Using sun protection

The school uses a combination of sun protection measures for all outdoor activities on and off site **during terms 1, 3 and 4 and when the UV rating is above level 3**. This includes: clothing, sunscreen, hats, shade provision and curriculum programs.

Clothing

Sun protective clothing is included in the school uniform/dress code. The clothing is cool, loose fitting and made of closely woven fabric. It includes shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts.

Sunscreen

Students must provide their own SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen and the school supplies SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for staff and students' use on camps, excursions or when participating in extended outdoor activities.

Sunscreen should be applied prior to students coming to school and students can reapply during lunch eating time before going outdoors.

Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors which include:

- Routines for students developed during lunch eating time
- Classroom UV monitors
- Reminders via school and staff information bulletins
- Morning routines developed at home before students come to school

Hats

All students are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears e.g. legionnaire or broad brimmed whenever they are outside in terms 1, 3 and 4. Teachers are asked to role model sun safety by wearing a hat when outside.

Shade

Care is taken during the peak UV radiation times, and outdoor activities are scheduled outside of these times or in the shade where possible.

Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.

Students who do not have appropriate hats or clothing are asked to stay in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun as determined by the school.

Curriculum

Programs on skin cancer prevention are included in the curriculum for all year levels.

Sun Smart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school web site, parent meetings, staff meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and in student enrolment packs.

Excursions and special Events

When planning for an excursion or event, sun safety procedures are managed through the Department for Education, 'Sports, adventure, camps and excursions risk management plan'. The teacher in charge / school leader identifies risk controls to eliminate or reduce the risk when participating and applies them during the excursion or event.