

Sun Smart Policy

Rationale

St Catherine's Primary School Sun-Smart policy has been developed to ensure that all students and staff attending this school are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun. The policy is to be implemented from the start of September until the end of April - when UV radiation is strongest - (or during Term 1 and Term 4 if more practical). This policy applies to all school events on and off site.

Purpose

This Sun Smart policy provides guidelines to:

- Ensure all students and staff have some UV exposure for vitamin D.
- Ensure all students and staff are well protected from too much UV exposure by using a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.
- Ensure the outdoor environment is sun safe and provides shade for students and staff.
- Ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills.
- Support duty of care requirements
- Support appropriate OHS strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harms for staff and visitors.

Behaviour

- require children to wear broad-brimmed or legionnaire hats whenever they are outside (eg. recess, lunch, sport, excursions).
- work with the parent community to provide SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for staff and student use.
- encourage the daily application of sunscreen before school and prior to the lunch break.
- encourage children to use available areas of shade for outdoor activities.
- request staff and encourage parents to act as role models by practising Sun-Smart behaviours.

Engaging children, educators, staff and families

- Staff and families are provided with information on sun protection and vitamin D through family newsletters, notice boards and the service's website.
- As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modeling, when the UV is 3 and above staff, families and visitors:
 - wear a sun protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses when outside
 - apply sunscreen
 - seek shade whenever possible

Curriculum

- incorporate programs on skin cancer prevention into the curriculum at all grade levels.
- regularly reinforce Sun-Smart behaviour in a positive way through Newsletters, parent meetings, student and teacher activities.
- ensure the Sun-Smart policy is reflected in the planning of all outdoor events (eg. camps, excursions, sporting events).

Environment

- provide sun protective clothing items as part of our school uniform.
- schedule outdoor activities before 11am and after 3pm daylight saving time (10am and 2pm other times) whenever possible.
- organise outdoor activities to be held in areas with plenty of shade whenever possible.
- schedule outdoor assemblies early in the day or in an area where all students can be in shade.
- work toward increasing the number of shelters and trees so as to provide adequate shade in the school grounds.

Evaluation

The Curriculum Development Committee will review the effectiveness of this policy each year. They will:

1. Review the Sun-Smart behaviour of students, staff, parents, and visitors and make recommendations for improvement.
2. Assess shade provision and usage and make recommendations for increases in shade provision.
3. Update and promote curriculum material relevant to Sun-Smart activities.