

SUN PROTECTION POLICY

DEPARTMENTAL LINKS: Sun Protection, Identifier SP200609

POLICY TITLE: Sun Protection Policy

PUBLISHED: 2011

LEGISLATION: *Education Act (2004)*

Policy Statement

1.1 The Department has a duty of care to ensure that sun protection is provided for students while they are on school premises during school hours or undertaking school activities.

1.2 There is a shared responsibility between schools and parents/carers that the latter must acknowledge and accept.

1.3 This policy refers specifically to students. However, for their own protection, staff are also encouraged to follow this policy and guidelines developed by the school. Staff, in providing for their own protection, are also providing a role model for students.

1.4 Through the school's curriculum, students should be made aware of the damaging effects of ultraviolet radiation caused by exposure to the sun, and the need to protect their skin from high levels of radiation.

1.5 In meeting their sun protection duty of care objectives, schools are encouraged to become an accredited SunSmart school under the National SunSmart Schools Program.

1.6 Information about the National SunSmart Program can be obtained from the Cancer Council ACT.

Rationale

Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world. Over-exposure to the sun during childhood and adolescence is known to be a major cause of skin cancer.

Our Sun Protection policy has been developed to ensure that all students and staff attending the school are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun. It is to be implemented throughout the year, with particular emphasis from August to May inclusive. During the months of June and July to ensure that students obtain enough Vitamin D from the sun to allow for healthy bone development and maintenance the Cancer Council recommends children not wear sun protective hats. Students may choose to wear beanies during these months.

Aim

Our aim at Mount Rogers Primary School is to ensure that everyone in the school community understands the need for protection from the sun and takes adequate precautions when engaged in outdoor activities. In 2003 Mount Rogers became an accredited SunSmart school.

Objectives

The objectives of the Sun Protection policy are to:

- Increase student and community awareness of skin safety
- Adopt practical skin protection measures
- Develop strategies that encourage responsible decision making about skin protection
- Work towards a safe school environment that provides shade for students and staff
- Encourage students, parents, teachers, volunteers and staff to wear protective clothing, hats and sunscreen
- Ensure that parents are informed of the school's Sun Protection policy

Implementation

As part of general Sun Protection strategies, our school will:

Behaviour

- Require students to wear broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaire hats whenever they are outside from August to May inclusive
- In June and July, students are not required to wear a SunSmart hat. Students may wear a beanie on colder days; **peaked caps are not permitted at any time**
- Encourage the daily application of SPF 30 sunscreen preferably free of nano-particles, before school and prior to the lunch break
- Direct students to use available areas of shade for outdoor activities
- Request staff and encourage parents and volunteers to act as role models by practising SunSmart behaviour, including the wearing of sun protective hats and protective clothing, using a SPF 30+ broad spectrum sunscreen and seeking shade whenever possible

Curriculum

- Incorporate programs on skin cancer prevention into the curriculum at all year levels
- Regularly reinforce SunSmart behaviour in a positive way through newsletters, parent meetings, student activities at all levels including class meetings, assemblies and the SRC, and teacher activities
- Ensure the Sun Protection policy is reflected in the planning of all outdoor activities (eg. camps, excursions and sporting events)

Environment

- Provide sun protective clothing as part of our school uniform
- Schedule outdoor activities before 11am during Daylight Saving time (10am and after 2pm at other times) whenever possible
- Organise outdoor activities to be held in areas with plenty of shade whenever possible
- Direct students not wearing hats to stay in the designated shaded area of the playground
- Schedule outdoor gatherings early in the day or in an area where all students can be in the shade

Related Policies:

Excursions - Policy and Mandatory Procedures

Health, Physical Education and Sport - Policy and Guidelines

Outdoor Adventure Activities - Policy and Mandatory Procedures

First Aid

OTHER LINKS: Cancer Council National SunSmart Schools Program <http://www.actcancer.org/>