



Our Lady of Hope School

Greenwith

POLICY DOCUMENT

<h2>Sun Protection</h2>

OUR LADY OF HOPE SCHOOL

SUN PROTECTION

RATIONALE

Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world with 2 out of 3 Australians developing skin cancer at some time in their life. Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun's ultra violet radiation (UVR). Much of the damage occurs during childhood and adolescence.

It is estimated that 95-99% of skin cancers are preventable by the development of safe practices and limited exposure to ultra violet rays.

As children are at school during the high ultra violet risk period each day for 5 days each week, the school has the potential to significantly reduce the level of sun exposure sustained by children.

PURPOSE

To ensure that all students attending school and/or participating in school-approved activities are protected from skin damage caused by harmful ultra-violet rays.

IMPLEMENTATION

The school designates certain times throughout the year when the UV risk is high and enforces the use of hats as a form of skin protection when children are outside for extended periods of time. During the cooler months, the school relaxes its stance on the wearing of hats as a form of sun protection, however still reserves the right to enforce the wearing of hats on days of high UV rating. The time frames listed in this policy for when children are required to wear hats is a guide only and is subject to change as required by the school in the interests of health and wellbeing of children and staff.

The School believes that protecting children's skin from ultra violet rays during school activities is a joint responsibility between the family and the school. As such parents are expected to support this policy by ensuring that their children have a hat to wear at school and when requested supply or apply sunscreen to their children on days when they are aware that their children will be outdoors for a period of time.

1. EDUCATION

Educating all staff, students and parents about the importance of Sun Protection. Such education will take place by: -

- Helping staff to understand the importance of maintaining adequate Vitamin D levels in children and developing their knowledge and understanding of when sun protection is needed for outdoor activities (when UV levels are over 3);
- Communication and reminders to parents about the School's Sun Protection Policy;
- Incorporating Sun and Heat Protection activities into the curriculum, including teaching children about the reasons for sun protection;
- Modelling of good Sun and Heat Protection practices by School Staff.

2. OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

- Shade is prioritised for outdoor activities when the UV is high. The temperature and risks of activities are considered when planning outdoor activities and events;
- Where possible activities are scheduled outside of the peak UV times of the day on days of extreme heat and UV.

3. HATS

- It is a requirement that all students have a hat at school. In Term's One and Four the wearing of hats at recess and lunch playtimes is enforced and a "no hat no play" rule exists. Students who do not have their hats with them during nominated play times will stay in an area protected from the sun. In Term's Two and Three the wearing of hats at recess and lunch playtimes is optional, however all children must have a hat at school with them as the school may enforce the wearing of hats during play breaks on days where the weather is warmer or the UV levels are high;
- The wearing of hats during PE lessons and other outside activities during class time will be at the discretion of the teacher in charge of the activity, however teachers are expected ensure that children are wearing hats on days in which the UV level is high and children are outside for extended periods time, in line with this policy;
- Hat requirements: Hats that give good protection to the face, ears and back of the neck are to be worn by staff and children. Broad brimmed, legionnaire style or a bucket hat with a deep crown and a brim width of 6cms. Students must wear a school hat available from the Our Lady of Hope (OLOH) Uniform Shop. School hats meet the above requirements;
- Hats stipulated by the school's Code of Dress Policy must be worn.

4. SUNSCREEN

- Whenever the UV levels are high and children will be outside for an extended period of time students and staff are encouraged to apply SPF 50 or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen;
- The school will provide 50+ broad spectrum sunscreen for staff;
- Whilst the school will have a provision of sunscreen for student use, it is also noted that some children have reactions to certain types of sunscreen and therefore the school's preferred stance is that parents supply sunscreen for their children;
- Children are expected to bring with them their own sunscreen when attending outdoor activities such as sports carnivals, outdoor excursions \ incursions or when they attend School Camps. This information is communicated in notices sent home to parents about the activity. Staff are expected to remind children to apply sunscreen at intervals throughout the day and exercise a duty of care in following up those children have responded to such reminders. Children who forget to bring their own personal sunscreen will have access to school supplied sunscreen.

5. SUNGLASSES

- Students are allowed to wear sunglasses for outdoor activities.

6. HOT WEATHER POLICY

- On days when the maximum temperature reaches 37°C or above, as displayed by the Bureau of Meteorology, students will remain indoors during play time;
- Students will be encouraged to stop at frequent intervals on very hot days to take drinks;
- Children will be allowed to bring their drink bottles and lunch boxes inside the classroom on hot days;
- An early dismissal policy will not apply at OLOH as the School is fully air conditioned;
- In the case of campus, sporting competitions and practices held out of school hours, the sun protection policy/hot weather policy for that competition will apply. In the absence of a policy the Principal or a member of the Leadership team will make a final decision on student's participation in the event.

7. STAFF

- The school provides SPF50+ broad spectrum to staff for use in staff first aid yard duty bags and also in the staff room;
- The school will be proactive in restructuring activities for staff in the event of excessive heat;
- School staff should be aware that they are role models to students and are expected to meet sun protection obligations by: -
 - Practising sun-safe procedures;
 - Wearing protective hats and appropriate clothing for all outdoor activities;
 - Using SPF50+ broad spectrum sun-screen protection;
 - Seeking shaded areas when possible.

8. SUN PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

- Clothing to protect the skin: Staff and students are encouraged to wear clothing which protects the skin from UV. The School reserves the right to put dress protocols in place for school activities which involve the wearing of casual clothes (e.g. camps, casual clothes days etc) in order to ensure that children wear sun smart clothing


SIGNED:


(School Board Chairperson)

DATE:

30/6/21

SIGNED:


(Principal)

DATE:

30/6/21