

SUN SMART POLICY

Background

Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of repeated exposure to ultraviolet radiation (UV) from the sun. UV damage begins to develop during childhood and adolescence and is associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in life. As students and staff are at school during times of peak UV radiation, schools play a major role in providing an environment that minimises exposure and encourages long-term sun protective behaviours.

Purpose

A healthy balance of ultraviolet radiation (UV) exposure is important for your health. Over exposure to the sun presents a serious health risk.

Our Sun Smart Policy has been developed so that all students, staff, parents and visitors attending Golden Bay Primary School are protected from skin damage caused by harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun.

Implementation

This policy is to be implemented when the forecast average monthly UV index in our area is 3 or above (available from www.bom.gov.au). Throughout Western Australia, UV levels reach 3 or above during all school terms. Then sun protection practices outlined in this policy will be applied to all school activities, including sports carnivals, excursions, and camps. Provisions will be made for students who do not have adequate sun protective clothing or hats and these students will not be excluded from play or physical activity, though activities may be restricted to shaded areas.

Procedures

Scheduling outdoor activities

- Where possible, we schedule outdoor activities such as assemblies, outdoor lessons, sport, and physical education to occur when the UV Index is below 3. When this is not possible activities are scheduled as far from 12 noon as possible to avoid peak UV times.
- When outdoor activities are scheduled at times when the UV index is 3 or higher, maximum use is made of shade, sunscreen, hats and long clothing to protect students and staff.

Shade

- We ensure there is adequate provision of shade within the school grounds for students and staff, particularly in areas in high use areas, for example, popular play areas where children eat lunch, and outdoor lesson areas.
- We encourage staff and students to use shaded areas when outside.
- Students who do not have appropriate hats or sun protective clothing are asked to play in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.
- We ensure that adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and outdoor events.
- Shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings, grounds and playground equipment.

Hats

- We require students to wear a broad-brimmed, bucket style hat that protects the face, neck, ears and crown of head whenever they are outside.
- Students without hats will remain protected from the sun and encouraged to play in shaded areas.
- Spare hats will be provided to students, when available.
- We encourage parents and visitors to wear broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaires style hats when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.

Sunscreen

- Sunscreen is available and accessible to staff and students in classrooms and around the school grounds e.g. at the school office and teaching blocks.
- All students and staff have the opportunity to apply SPF50+ broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors e.g. at home prior to school, before lunch, PE lessons, sports, excursions etc.
- Sunscreen will be stored in a cool place, out of the sun.
- The occupational safety and health representative will monitor the expiry date of sunscreen and discard when out of date.

Role modelling and occupational health and safety

- To support health and safety legislation, staff are encouraged to wear sun protective hats when supervising students.
- Staff, students and visitors will act as positive role models and demonstrate SunSmart behaviour when attending school by:
 - Wearing sun protective clothing
 - Applying SPF 50+ broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen
 - Wearing a sun protective hat (broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaires style)
 - Using and promoting shade

Education

- Programs on sun protection are included in the curriculum for all year levels.

Informing the school community

- Sun protection is communicated to staff, families and visitors via newsletters, social media, assemblies, daily messages, whole school activities, and parent and staff meetings.
- Families and visitors are encouraged to role model sun protection measures when attending outdoor activities.

Policy monitoring and review

- The sun smart policy will be made available to staff and parents. Parents are informed of this sun smart policy when they enrol their child/children. All new employees are briefed on the sun smart policy.
- The policy is monitored regularly and reviewed every three years.

Noted by School Board: 21 November 2024

Date for review: November 2027