



Sun Protection Policy

Vision

To promote among students, staff and parents:

- Positive attitudes towards skin protection.
- Lifestyle practices which can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer and the number of skin cancer related deaths.
- Personal responsibility for and decision making about skin protection.
- Awareness of the need for environmental changes in schools to reduce the level of exposure when the UV index is 3 or over.

Purpose

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that strategies are in place for all members of our school community in protecting them from skin damage caused by the harmful ultraviolet rays from the sun. The school is ideally placed to help reduce the incidence of skin cancer and encourage all members of the school community to use effective skin protection measures.

Policy detail/actions

This policy is for implementation throughout the whole school year in line with Department and Cancer Council SA recommendations.

Students are required to wear a school hat (correctly fitted broad brimmed, legionnaire or bucket style) during terms 1, 3 and 4 and in term 2 whenever UV index levels reach 3 and above when they are outside. Baseball or peak caps are not acceptable as they provide inadequate protection.

Term 1 – School hats required for playtimes and all outdoor activities

Term 2 – School hats required for playtimes and all outdoor activities when the UV level is 3 or above.

During term 2 hats are kept on standby at school. Teachers to check real time UV Index prior to students exiting for play.

Term 3 - School hats required for playtimes and all outdoor activities.

Term 4 - School hats required for playtimes and all outdoor activities.

Students not wearing a school hat when required during play times will be asked to move to designated shaded areas of the school.

All members of the school community are strongly encouraged to use the following skin protection strategies:

Avoid being in the direct sun without protection between the hours of 10am – 2pm (11am – 3pm daylight saving time).

- Whenever possible, all outdoor activities will be scheduled before 10am and after 2pm (11am and 3pm daylight saving time), or in the shaded areas of the school where practical.
- School assemblies are held indoors in the hall or under the COLA.

Use the shade of trees, pergolas, umbrellas and tents whenever outdoors.

- Encourage students to play under playground canopies, verandas and trees.

Wear appropriate clothing which protects the skin.

- Students will be encouraged to wear suitable protective clothing ie – shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves and longer style shorts/skirt. Rash vests covering the shoulders to be worn for outdoor swimming.

Apply a broad-spectrum sunscreen with a SPF of at least 30+, to clean and dry skin, 10-15 minutes before going outdoors.

- During high UV school terms (Term 1, 3 and 4) students are encouraged to apply sunscreen at home before school and bring a personal supply to use before going out to lunch or participating in outdoor activities.
- Classrooms will have a supply of sunscreen for student use at whole school outdoor events (sports day and swimming carnival) and on outdoor excursions. Students are encouraged to carry their own sunscreen for use when necessary.

Reinforcing the Sun Smart message in class learning programs and in general school procedures are important strategies in the adoption of the skin protection behaviours.

- Staff are expected to role model appropriate Sun Smart strategies in all school activities.
- Parents and volunteers assisting in class or school programs are encouraged to role model appropriate sun protection strategies.
- Skin cancer prevention will be included in Health and Physical Education programs.
- Sun protection messages will be featured in Marryatville PS newsletters and at school assemblies.
- Policy issues will be discussed at staff, SRC and Governing Council meetings as needed.

Supporting documents/related items

Marryatville PS Inclement Weather Policy (hot and wet weather procedures)

DfE Sun Protection in Schools Policy

[Cancer Council Website](#)

[Cancer Council Policy Review Checklist](#)