



SunSmart Policy

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Overexposure to the sun during childhood and adolescent is an important contributing factor to the development of skin cancer later in life. As students are at school during times of peak ultraviolet (UV) radiation, schools can play a major role in creating a supportive environment that minimises exposure and encourages sun protective behaviours.

OVERVIEW

Beaumaris Primary School will adopt a SunSmart policy to ensure that all students, staff and parents are aware of sun protective behaviours and follow appropriate sun protection practices that minimise skin damage and exposure to UV radiation above the UV Index 3.

GOAL

This policy is to be implemented when the forecast average monthly **UV Index in our area is 3 or above**. The sun protection practices outlined in this policy will be applied to all school activities, including sports carnivals, excursions and camps. The policy has been developed in consultation with the whole school community.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the SunSmart policy are to:

- Increase awareness of the importance of adequate sun protection.
- Encourage students and teachers to protect themselves from the sun on days above 3 on the UV index.
- Encourage parents to provide students with adequate protection from UV radiation.
- Incorporate sun protection and skin cancer awareness programs into the appropriate Key Learning Areas of the school curriculum.

PEOPLE COORDINATING SUNSMART POLICY

The Beaumaris Primary School Physical Education & Health Coordinator (PE&H) Robyn Blackwell, Jo Stephens (Principal), Leanne Kelleher, Wendy Cross, Sue Skillen, Yvonne O'Neill, Rebekah Brand, Sam Siney and Janet Gillespie (teachers).

The process will commence in Term 4, 2014. The draft document will be made available for parents and staff to review. The final version of this document will be presented to and endorsed by the School Board.

Our Commitment

Beaumaris Primary will:

- Inform parents of this sun protection policy when they enrol their child/children.
- Brief all new staff on the sun protection policy.
- Promote sun protection via newsletters, assemblies, daily messages, whole school activities, and parent and staff meetings.
- Communicate to the school community the daily UV index.
- Require students to wear hats, in accordance with the Beaumaris Primary School (BPS) uniform policy, when outside.
- Direct students without a hat, in accordance with the BPS uniform policy, to stay in an area that is protected from the sun.
- Encourage staff to wear broad-brimmed or bucket hats for all outdoor activities, including yard duty.
- Encourage parents and guests to wear broad-brimmed or bucket style hats when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.
- Require students to wear a hat in accordance with the BPS uniform policy, sun protective clothing and sunscreen for all camps, sports and excursions. These items will be listed on the parent permission form.
- Require staff and students to wear a swim (*rash*) top for any water – based excursions.

- Continue to review the school dress code to ensure it applies to the SunSmart guidelines.
- Endeavour to provide adequate shade within the school grounds for students and staff, by planting trees and building shade structures. Particularly in areas where students congregate, for example, lunch, canteen, outdoor lesson areas.
- Encourage staff and students to use shaded or covered areas when outside.
- Endeavour to provide adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and outdoor events.
- Timetable as many outdoor activities as possible when the UV Index is below 3. When this is not possible activities should be scheduled as far from 12 noon as possible.
- Encourage the use of SPF 30 or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen.
- Incorporate sun protection and skin cancer awareness programs into the appropriate Key Learning Areas of the school curriculum.
- Review the sun protection policy annually.
- Ensure the Extreme Weather Policy includes days with an Extreme UV Index.

Our Expectations

Parents/carers will:

- Ensure that your child/children's clothing provides adequate protection from UV radiation. In accordance with the BPS Uniform Policy and Cancer Council WA recommendations.
- Ensure your child/children has a hat in accordance with the BPS uniform policy.
- Ensure that your child/children has/have access to SPF 30 or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen before leaving for school.
- Act as positive role models by practising SunSmart behaviour.
- Support the school's sun protection policy, and help design and regularly update the policy.

Students will:

- Be aware of the school's sun protection policy.
- Take responsibility for their health by being SunSmart.
- Comply with SunSmart rules and guidelines by wearing suitable hats and clothing.
- Apply SPF30 or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen before going outdoors.
- Use shaded or covered areas outdoors.
- Act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour.
- Be actively involved in initiatives to protect the school community from over-exposure to the sun.
- Participate in SunSmart education programs.

Review

Sun Smart Committee will review the effectiveness of this policy each year and make any necessary changes.

They will:

1. Review the SunSmart 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 SunSmart activities.

Date: _____ Signed: _____ Position: _____

Attendance: Physical Education & Health Coordinator (PE&H) Robyn Blackwell, Wendy Cross, Sue Skillen, Yvonne O'Neill and Janet Gillespie (teachers).

Apologies: Leanne Kelleher and Rebekah Brand

Recommendations

- The Physical Education teacher have DOTT as close to 12:00 as possible.
- The school plant more shade trees in each playground area. Check with the City of Joondalup as to the selection of approved native trees that grow well in Ocean Reef and provide wide coverage.
- Year group sport timetabled before recess.
- Fitness Ambassadors to make PA announcements advising when UV Index is extremely high.

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