

# Sandy Creek Primary School

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## Sun Protection Policy

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancers in the world; affecting 2 out of 3 Australians at some time in their lives. It is estimated that 80% of these concerns are preventable by the development of safe practices and limiting exposure to ultra-violet rays.

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

### Outcomes:

- positive attitudes towards skin protection evident.
- school community aware of and using sun-safe practices.
- school programs include sun-safe practices.

### Implementation:

#### Curriculum

Learning about the relationships between the sun exposure and skin cancer and ways of reducing risk is presented in the Health and Physical Education study area.

#### Outdoor Activities

Outdoor activities, such as Physical Education lessons, will be planned considering sun-safe practices. This may include being scheduled out of peak exposure periods (10am – 3pm in Summer) or being held in shaded areas.

#### Hats

The School Council provides hats free of charge to all students when starting at the school. Students replace hats when needed or if damaged.

The hats provided are in accordance with the Cancer Council South Australia recommendations of protecting ears, face and back of the neck.

Students are required to wear their hats for all outside activities in terms 1 and 4. A “No Hat, No Play” policy will exist for all students participating in outdoor activities. Students without the required hat will remain under the Shade area at playtime or be supervised in another class in lesson time.

Parents/caregivers and students are responsible for care and maintenance of hats.

## **Sunscreen**

Students will be encouraged to apply UV protection (not zinc cream). Students are encouraged to supply their own for use at school.

## **Dress Code**

Students are encouraged to wear school uniform as outlined in the Parent Information Booklet and Uniform Policy. Clothing for school wear needs to protect students from skin exposure to UV. Therefore clothing like tank tops and halter neck tops are unacceptable for school wear because of increased skin exposure.

## **Shaded Areas**

The school is well serviced by shaded areas, provided by trees and verandahs. On days of extreme heat students at playtime will be directed towards shaded areas or indoor areas of the school in accordance with the Hot Weather Policy.

## **Staff**

School staff will act as responsible role models by:

- practicing sun-safe procedures.
- wearing protective hats and appropriate clothing for outdoor activities.
- using sunscreen.
- using shaded areas where possible.

## **Parents/Caregivers**

All parents to be informed of this policy and the reasons for its use.

On enrolling a student, new parent/caregivers will:

- be informed of the sun protection policy.
- be provided with a hat for each school going child.
- be encouraged to provide a suitable SPF 30+ sunscreen for their child's use.
- be encouraged to practise sun-safe behaviour themselves.