

Kellyville Public School

A tradition of excellence and opportunity



SUN PROTECTION POLICY

PURPOSE

Schools have a responsibility to provide a safe environment for students and staff and this responsibility includes the provision of adequate sun protection throughout the year. The school community, including families, need to work together to take all reasonable actions to protect students from risks of harm that can be reasonably predicted due to ultraviolet radiation from the sun.

RATIONALE

The increasing occurrence of skin cancer in Australia is a matter of concern for the whole community. Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world with an estimated 160,000 new cases and 1,200 deaths annually.

Sun protection times are a forecast for the time of day UV levels will reach 3 or above. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types and the policy areas should be implemented. In NSW, UV levels are high enough (UV 3 or above) to damage unprotected skin most months of the year. UV levels are particularly high during the summer months, and highest in the middle of the day.

AIMS

By promoting this policy amongst all members of the school community they will develop:

- positive attitudes towards skin protection
- lifestyle practices which will help reduce the incidence of skin cancer
- personal responsibility for the decision-making about skin protection
- awareness of the need for school environmental measures to reduce exposure to the sun.

IMPLEMENTATION

- UV levels and daily sun protection times are where possible, used to plan daily activities and ensure a correct understanding of local sun protection requirements.
- A red broad brimmed hat is considered part of our basic school uniform.
- Children will wear the Kellyville school broad brimmed hat to protect their face, neck and ears whenever outside e.g. recess, lunch, sport, carnivals, etc. This policy applies all year round.
- A “No Hat – No Play” policy will be enforced all year round.
- Sunglasses have been introduced as an optional extra to the school uniform and students will be encouraged to wear them.
- Sun smart clothing is part of the school and sport uniforms. Sun smart clothing includes wearing loose fitting shirts and dresses with sleeves and collars or covered neckline, and longer style skirts, shorts and trousers. Midriff, crop or singlet tops do not provide enough sun protection and therefore are not permitted on mufti days.
- Sun Protection is part of the Sport and Physical Activity Policy.
- Children are encouraged to play, have lunch, etc in shaded areas.
- Shade assessments are conducted to monitor existing shade structures and determine future shade needs. The availability of shade is considered for all outdoor activities and excursions. Shade options include a combination of portable, natural and built shade.
- Sporting activities, whenever possible, will be scheduled before 12 noon (EST) to avoid the hottest part of the day in Term 1 and Term 4.

- Children are encouraged to wear/apply SPF 30 or higher sunscreen before going outside and to reapply every 2 hours if needed.

Staff act as role models and demonstrate Sun Smart behaviours when outside, including:

- Wearing a Sun Smart hat or using an umbrella for shade protection, protective clothing and sunglasses (optional).
- Applying SPF 30+ broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen
- Promoting the use of shade.
- Discussing sun protection with children and demonstrating a positive and proactive approach to the management of sun protection.

All parents/families are informed of the sun protection policy and procedures including appropriate hat, clothing and sunscreen requirements on enrolling their child. Sun protection information, policy updates and resources are communicated regularly through a range of channels eg. annual reports, newsletters, notice boards, online, parent meetings, staff meetings, school assemblies and student orientation.

EVALUATION AND REVIEW

Through positive encouragement, special lessons and programs, staff and parents will be able to identify a general increase in the student's knowledge and understanding of the Skin Awareness Program. Students will understand why sun protection is important and will take effective action to protect themselves. Parents, staff and other school community members will understand the risks of sun exposure and will support each other in developing and implementing the school's sun protection plan throughout the year.

In consultation with teachers, parents and students, the Sun Protection Policy will be reviewed for effectiveness by consideration of the following issues:

- the extent to which sun protection teaching and learning activities are provided in the curriculum.
- the adequacy of the current school uniform for sun protection.
- support of sun protection strategies observed in leisure use.
- existing shade provisions at school and at sporting venues.
- the extent to which outdoor activities and events are scheduled for outside peak UVR times.

REFERENCES

NSW DoE School Uniform Policy

NSW DoE Health & Physical Care 2020

Sun Safety for Students 2013

Sport & Physical Activity Policy 2020