

The objective of this policy is to implement a comprehensive Sun Protection Plan that actively protects students and staff from dangerous overexposure to the sun. This is reflected through curriculum activities, the behaviour of students, staff, parents and caregivers and the environment around the school.

This policy is endorsed so that all students and staff are protected from harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays. Skin damage caused by harmful UV rays can lead to serious skin cancer (melanoma) in later life. Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world, with skin cancers accounting for around 80% of all new cancers diagnosed each year. At least every 2 in 3 Australians will be diagnosed with skin cancer by the age of 70.

The school uses a combination of sun protection measures for all outdoor activities from 1 August to 30 April, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above at other times. Excluding hats, which are to be worn year around.

Objectives:

At Playford Primary School we aim to:

- Promote and practise positive attitudes towards practices that ensure skin protection.
- Teach children about lifestyle practices that can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer.
- Encourage children to accept personal responsibility for skin protection.

As part of the general skin protection strategy, it is compulsory that:

- All students and staff at Playford Primary School will wear a school hat when outside.
- Students participating in water activities (swimming, aquatics) must wear a T-Shirt.
- Students must wear sun smart clothing on casual clothes days.
- Students who do not wear a school hat during recess and lunch times will be required to play in a shaded area of the yard.
- Students who do not wear a school hat during sport lessons and/or any outdoor activities, will be required to sit in a shaded area and not participate.
- For Work, Health and Safety and role modelling, when the UV is 3 and above, staff are required to practice Sun Smart behaviours.
- Teachers will use shady areas and indoor venues whenever possible.



Our school will:

- Ensure that school hats are appropriate and satisfy the Cancer Council South Australia guidelines.
- Ensure that adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and outdoor events.
- Provide more shelters and shady trees.
- Families and staff are asked to supply their own SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen.
- Incorporate programs on skin cancer prevention are included in the curriculum for all year levels.
- Regularly reinforce the SunSmart Policy in a positive way through newsletters, parent meetings, student and teacher activities.
- Outdoor activities will be held in areas of shade whenever possible.
- Where possible, teachers will schedule outdoor activities outside of the peak UV times, from the beginning of August to the end of April, and when the UV is 3 and above outside of these times.

When enrolling a child, parents will be:

- Informed of the Sun Smart Policy.
- Requested to purchase a school hat.
- Encourage parents/caregivers to provide SPF 30+, broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for their child's use.
- Encouraged to practise skin-protective behaviour themselves.

Hot Weather Policy

Our school does not close or dismiss early because of hot weather. All classrooms and work areas are air-conditioned.

When the temperature on any given day is 35°C or above at break times, students will play inside the classrooms during those breaks.

After School Activities

If the temperature on any given day is advertised as 35°C or more, all outside after school activities will be cancelled.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure that it meets the most current guidelines of the Cancer Council of South Australia.

Intervention

The school community support a note being sent home to parents/caregivers of students who repeatedly do not wear a hat to remind them of their responsibility in regards to their child's welfare.

Disciplinary action will only occur in relation to the non-wearing of hats if a student deliberately fails to comply with the designated shade requirements.

According to DfE Legal & Risk Management Services, parents/caregivers who wish their children to be exempt from this policy will need to provide a written authority for their children to be excused from sun protection procedures.

DfE – Administrative Instructions & Guidelines 3.88.3 Exemptions

“Students may be granted permission from the Sun Protection Policy provided that parents/caregivers provide written authority for their children to be excused from sun protection procedures.”