

Beldon Primary School

Sun Protection Policy

Rationale

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Research indicates that childhood and adolescent sun exposure is an important contributing factor to the development of skin cancer. As students are at school during times when UV radiation levels are highest, schools play a major role in minimising student's UV exposure.

Our sun protection policy has been adopted to ensure that all staff and students attending Beldon Primary School are protected from skin damage caused by UV radiation from the sun. This policy is to be implemented throughout the year, but with particular emphasis from the beginning of September through to the end of May. 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 community.

Our Commitment

Beldon Primary School will:

- Inform parents of this sun protection policy when they enrol their child/children.
- Promote sun protection via newsletters, assemblies, daily messages, whole school activities, and parent and staff meetings.
- Encourage staff, parents and guests to wear broad-brimmed hats when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.

- Require students to wear broad-brimmed hats when outside.
- Require staff and students to wear a swim top for swimming (this may not be appropriate during competitive swimming).
- Review the school dress code to include sun protective items such as shirts with collars and longer sleeves, and swim tops for swimming.
- Encourage staff and students to use shaded or covered areas when outside.
- Timetable as many outdoor activities as possible – including assemblies, sport and physical education – before 10am and after 3pm. When this is not possible activities should be scheduled as far from 12 noon as possible.
- Encourage the use of SPF30+ 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.

Our Expectations

Parents/carers will:

- Ensure your child/children has a broad-brimmed hat.
- Ensure that your child/children's clothing provides adequate protection from UV radiation.
- Ensure that your child/children has access to SPF30+ 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+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes 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.
- Help design and regularly update the SunSmart policy.
- Participate in SunSmart education programs.