

Sun Protection Policy

Mount Hawthorn Primary School

Rationale

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.

Our sun protection policy has been adopted to ensure that all students, staff, parents and visitors attending Mount Hawthorn Primary School are protected from skin damage caused by UV radiation from the sun. During Term 1 and Term 4 there is a 'no hat, no play in the sun'; requiring students to wear broad brimmed hats when outside.

All year round students are required to have a hat available at all times. 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 school board.

Our Commitment

Mount Hawthorn Primary School 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.
- Require students and staff to wear broad-brimmed hat when outside.
- Direct students without a broad-brimmed hat to stay in an area that is protected from the sun.
- Require students to wear broad-brimmed, sun protective clothing and sunscreen for all camps, sports and excursions. These items will be listed on the parent permission form.
- Ensure there is adequate provision of 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.
- Ensure that adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and outdoor events.
- Encourage the use of SPF 30 or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen by promoting students have sunscreen in their school bags and sunscreen available at school.
- Review the sun protection policy annually.

Our Expectations

Parents/carers will:

- Ensure your child/children has a broad-brimmed style hat. Cancer Council WA recommends the following hats:
 - broad-brimmed (7.5 cm brim)
- Ensure that your child/children's clothing provides adequate protection from UV radiation. Cancer Council WA recommends the following:
 - collars and sleeves
 - closely woven fabric
 - natural fibre
 - swim (*rash*) tops for swimming
- 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.

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.
- 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.

Evaluation

Mount Hawthorn Primary School Board Members will review the effectiveness of this policy each year and make any necessary changes.

They will:

1. Review the Sun Protection Policy with students, staff, parents, and visitors and make recommendations for improvement.
2. Assess shade provision and usage and make recommendations for increases in shade provision.

Date: _____ Signed: _____ Position: _____