

Two Rocks 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 Two Rocks Primary School are protected from skin damage caused by UV radiation from the sun. This policy is to be implemented throughout the year, but a 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. This policy has been developed in consultation with the whole school community.

Our Commitment

Two Rocks will:

- Inform parents of this sun protection policy when they enrol their child / children into our school.
- Brief all new staff on the sun protection policy.
- Promote sun protection via newsletters, assemblies, daily messages, whole school activities and parent meetings.
- Require staff to wear a broad brimmed hat for outdoor activities, including yard duty.
- Encourage parents and guests to wear a broad brimmed hat when participating and attending outdoor school activities.
- Require students to wear a broad brimmed hat when outside.
- School to purchase and check the upkeep of orange broad brimmed hats, which may be provided to a student without a hat.
- Direct students without a broad brimmed navy hat to the school administration building where they can sign out an orange broad brimmed hat for outdoor activities.
- Require students to wear the school broad brimmed navy hat, protective clothing and sunscreen for all camps, sports and excursions. These items will be listed on the parents' permission slips.
- Require staff and students to wear a swim top for swimming (this may not be appropriate during competitive swimming).
- Require students to wear school uniform with sun protection items such as shirts with collars.
- 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 eg. Lunch, canteen, outdoor lesson areas.

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- Encourage staff and students to use shaded or covered areas when outside.
- Ensure that adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and outdoor events.
- Timetable as many outdoor activities – 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 SPF 30 + broad – spectrum, water – resistant sunscreen by:
 - Providing sunscreen in the classroom.
 - Allowing students time to apply sunscreen 20 minutes prior to outdoor activities eg. Prior to school, before lunch, PE lessons, sports carnivals, excursions, etc.
- Incorporate sun protection and skin cancer awareness programs into the appropriate Key Learning Areas of the school curriculum.
- Review the sun protection policy annually.
- Cancel all outdoor activities when the temperature reaches 37 degrees and above.

Our Expectations

Parents / Carers will:

- Ensure your child / children has the school broad brimmed navy hat and wears it when at school, as recommended by the WA Cancer Council.
- Ensure that your child/ children’s clothing provides adequate protection from the UV radiation. The Cancer Council WA recommends the following:
 - Collar and sleeves
 - Closely woven fabric
 - Natural fibre
 - Swim tops for swimming
- Ensure that your child / children has access to SPF 30+ broad – spectrum, water – resistant sunscreen before leaving for school.
- Act as positive role models by practising Sun Smart 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 Sun Smart.
- Comply with the Sun Smart rules and guidelines by wearing suitable hats and clothing.
- Comply with SPF 30+ broad – spectrum, water – resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors.
- Use shared covered areas outdoors.
- Act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of Sun Smart Behaviour.
- Be actively involved in initiatives to protect the school community from over – exposure to the sun.

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