

Sun Protection Policy



Rationale

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Overexposure to the sun during younger years is a major contributing factor to the development of skin cancer later in life. 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 **Lakelands Primary School** are sun aware ensuring they are protected from skin damage caused by UV radiation from the sun. 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 school community.

Our Commitment

Lakelands 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 to wear broad-brimmed hats for all outdoor activities, all year round and direct students without a broad-brimmed or bucket hat to stay in a shaded area.
- Provide staff with broad-brimmed hats and require staff to wear these for all outdoor activities, including yard duty.
- Encourage parents and guests to wear broad-brimmed hats attending outdoor school activities.
- Require students to wear broad-brimmed hats, sun protective clothing and sunscreen for all camps, sports and excursions. These items will be listed on the parent permission form.
- Review the school dress code to include sun protective items such as shirts with collars and longer sleeves, and swim tops for swimming.
- 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, e.g. lunch areas, 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.
- Timetable as many outdoor activities as possible - including assemblies, sport and physical education – when the UV Index is below 3. When this is not possible activities should be scheduled as far from 12 noon as possible.
- Encourage the use of SPF 30 or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen by:
 1. listing sunscreen as an item on the students “Personal Use Items” list.
 2. allowing students time to apply sunscreen 20 minutes prior to outdoor activities e.g. before lunch, PE lessons, excursions etc.
- Incorporate sun protection and skin cancer awareness into appropriate Key Learning Areas of the curriculum.
- Include SPF 30 sunscreen on the Personal Use Items list under “Parents to Provide”.
- Encourage children to wear sunscreen (**Note –Teachers will not apply sunscreen directly to children**).
- Review the sun protection policy annually.

Our Expectations

Parents/carers will:

- Ensure their child/children has a broad-brimmed hat.
- Ensure their child/children's clothing provides adequate protection from UV radiation e.g. collars and sleeves, swim (rash) tops for swimming.
- Ensure their 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, 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 or higher 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.

Evaluation

Lakelands Primary School, School Board will review the effectiveness of this policy each year and make any necessary changes.

They will:

1. Review the SunSmart behaviour of students, staff, parents, and visitors and make recommendations for improvement.
2. Assess shade provision and usage and make recommendations for increases in shade provision.
3. Update and promote curriculum material relevant to SunSmart activities.