Sun Smart Policy

POLICY

Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world. Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Much of the damage occurs during childhood and adolescence. Research suggests that severe sunburn is a contributor to skin cancer and other forms of skin damage such as wrinkles, sunspots, blemishes and premature ageing. Most skin damage and skin cancer is, therefore, preventable.

Primary schools can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer and the number of related deaths by encouraging all members of the school community to take effective skin protection measures.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that all students attending our school are protected from skin damage caused by harmful ultraviolet rays.

OUTCOMES

The OLR Sun Smart policy aims to promote among students staff and parents:
- Positive attitudes towards skin protection.
- Lifestyle practices, which can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer and the number of related deaths.
- Personal responsibility for, and decision making about, skin protection.
- Awareness of the need for environmental changes in schools to reduce the level of exposure to the sun.

SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

As part of general skin protection strategies:
- Children will be required to wear, all year round, school-approved hats that satisfy Cancer Council guidelines.
- Children who do not have their hats with them will play in the shaded areas for recess and lunch times.
- Children will be encouraged to use the shaded areas on our playground and outdoor activities will be held in areas of shade, whenever possible.
- Children must wear appropriate hats and be encouraged to wear sunscreen for: travelling to and from school; during recess and lunch; on Excursions; during Daily Fitness; during Class and school activities held outdoors; at Sport and carnivals.
- Teachers will schedule outdoor activities before 10am and after 2pm (11am and 3pm daylight saving time) whenever possible.
- Staff will be encouraged to act as role models by practising Sun Smart behaviour i.e. wearing protective hats and appropriate clothing for all outdoor sporting activities, using a SPF 30+ broad spectrum water resistant sunscreen for skin protection.
- School hats will be appropriate and satisfy Cancer Council guidelines.
- Adequate shade will be provided at sporting carnivals and outdoor events where possible (See point 2.3 where it is not possible)
- Use of SPF 30+ broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen for staff and students will be encouraged.
- Exposure times to the sun, through timetable changes, will be limited when possible.
- Programs on skin cancer prevention will be incorporated into the PDH curriculum.
- The Sun Smart Policy will be regularly reinforced in a positive way through newsletters, parent meetings, and student and teacher activities.

*When enrolling a child at Our Lady of the Rosary The Entrance, parents will be:*
- Informed of the Sun Smart Policy.
- Encouraged to purchase an approved school hat.
- Encouraged to provide SPF 30+ broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen for their child’s use.
- Encouraged to act as positive role models and practise skin protective behaviour themselves, particularly when attending school functions.

**Review Date**

Draft Policy: 2002;
To be revised: 2018

**References**

Policy CSO 401: *Pastoral Care of Student*