



TATHRA PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Centenary
1912 - 2012

Sun Protection Policy

Developed 2003, Reviewed 2006 & 2012

Tathra Public School is a Sun Smart School and implements Cancer Council NSW guidelines



Rationale

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 by encouraging all members of the school community to take effective skin-protection.

Our policy aims to promote:

- positive attitudes towards skin protection.
- lifestyle practices which can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer.
- personal responsibility for skin protection.
- awareness of the need to reduce the level of exposure to the sun.

Policy Considerations

- scheduling outdoor activities
- shade
- hats
- clothing
- sunscreen
- role modelling by staff
- curriculum
- informing school community
- policy review

Implementation



The Policy will be implemented through:

- children wearing broad brimmed hats whenever they are exposed to the sun.
- children who are not wearing broad brimmed hats will play under the shade area.
- children being encouraged to use available areas of shade for outdoor play activities.
- wherever possible outdoor activities being held in areas of shade.
- wherever possible outdoor activities will be scheduled before 10 am or after 2 pm.
- staff acting as role models by practising SunSmart behaviour themselves.
- ensuring our school uniform code complies with Cancer Council Guidelines.
- conducting, in conjunction with Cancer Council staff, awareness programs for students, parents, staff and the community.
- ensuring that adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and outdoor events.
- wherever possible, providing SPF 30 or higher, broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for student and staff use.
- incorporating sun protection principles in our teaching and learning programs.
- reinforcing regularly the Sun Protection Policy in a positive way through newsletters etc.
- regular review of the effectiveness of the Sun Protection Policy by staff and parent body.

When enrolling a child, parents will be:

- informed of the Sun Protection Policy.
- provided with a hat for their child which complies with this policy.
- encouraged to provide SPF 30 or higher, broad spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for their child's use.
- encouraged to practise skin-protective behaviour themselves.

