WHS Sun Protection Guidelines

for

ST KIERAN’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
MANLY VALE
Sun Protection Guidelines

Overview

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world with one in two Australians developing some form of skin cancer in their life time. Much of the sun exposure that causes skin damage occurs during childhood and adolescence. By the age of 15 many children have developed irreversible skin damage from exposure to the sun.*

Five major factors in Australia that contribute to high rates of sun damage include;
1. A large proportion of the population has fair skin
2. Ultraviolet radiation (UVR) from the sun is of high intensity
3. Lifestyle, work, school and recreational practices may expose people to the sun frequently and for long periods
4. A perception that a suntan is healthy and attractive
5. Exposure of skin to the sun is common during the peak UVR times

According to the Australian Cancer Council it is essential that sun safety practices are adopted by our population in order to reduce the risks associated with harmful exposure to ultraviolet radiation. Therefore, we ask the staff and students of St Kieran’s Manly Vale School to adhere to the following sun protection guidelines.

Staff Responsibilities

Curriculum

- Through the school’s curriculum, staff must regularly provide opportunities for students to participate in sun safety awareness lessons which highlight the damaging effects of ultraviolet radiation through exposure to the sun as well teach the appropriate practices for being sun safe.

- Staff, in accordance with the WHS committee, is to review the school’s sun protection guideline annually in order to update and maintain best sun protection practices.

Protective Clothing

- All staff is encouraged to wear appropriate protective clothing that reduces sun exposure to their skin.

- Hats are a compulsory clothing item when participating in any outdoor activities such as playground duty or school sporting events.

- Staff is encouraged to supply their own sunscreen and reapply accordingly throughout the day. They are not to provide sunscreen to students as a precaution for allergies.
Duty of Care

- In meeting their sun protection duty of care, staff are to ensure students are wearing their school hat when outdoors. Should a student not have their hat, the student is to be issued with a ‘Hat Note’ which is to be signed by the student’s parent/guardian and followed up by the student’s class teacher. Staff must also ensure that a student without a hat is provided with an appropriate alternative which reduces their exposure to ultraviolet radiation. Staff are not permitted to allow a student to be exposed to the sun without having addressed any hazard controls.

- Staff arranging events such as excursions and carnivals, are to ensure that sun safety is addressed in the risk assessment for the event and in any associated notes that provide details of the event.

- Staff are responsible for monitoring the time students spend outdoors between the hours of 11am and 3pm (daylight savings time) particularly on days that have been forecasted for higher temperatures. Staff are to reschedule any outdoor events if temperatures have been forecasted to be 30+ degrees.

- Where possible staff are to arrange outdoor activities that maximize the use of covered or shaded areas such as undercrofts and COLAs.

Student Responsibilities

Curriculum

- Through the school’s curriculum, students are to regularly participate in and practice activities that promote sun safety awareness.

Protective Clothing

- Students are to wear their full school uniform when attending school, which includes wearing their school hat to and from school. The exception is only on allocated mufti days however students are still to wear appropriate protective clothing and have a hat either the school hat or their own. Parents have a shared responsibility in ensuring that on mufti days their child is wearing appropriate protective clothing.

- Students are responsible for putting their hat on when outside the classroom and for storing their hats when not in use.

- Students must ensure that their hat is labeled. If a student’s hat has been misplaced their parent/guardian is to ensure that a replacement school hat is arranged.

- Should a student not have a hat they are to take a “Hat Note” home to be signed by their parent/guardian and return it to their teacher the next day.

- Students are encouraged to apply 30+ water resistant sunscreen in the mornings before attending school. They are permitted to reapply their own sunscreen at morning tea and lunch. Students are not to apply sunscreen belonging to another student due to allergy precautions.

- On excursions or at sporting carnivals (where the class teacher is not always present with their every student) students are responsible for maintaining their own sun protection. It is anticipated that parents/guardians have supplied their child with the appropriate sun protective measures as indicated on the accompanying notes for the event.

(*statistics attained through the SunSmart Primary School Program developed by the Cancer Council NSW)

Completed 2013- to be reviewed in 2015