

The purpose of this document is to detail the policies and procedures for staff, students and community in relation to sun safety at Machans Beach State School.

RATIONALE

Exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation in childhood is a major risk factor for developing skin cancer later in life. By implementing a best-practice Sun Protection Policy and practices, early childhood education and care services can help protect staff, educators and children from UV radiation and teach children good sun protection habits from an early age.

The sun protection practices outlined in this policy will be applied to all school activities, including sport carnivals, excursions and camps. The policy has been developed in consultation with the whole school community.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. Shade

- All outdoor activities will be planned to occur in shaded areas where possible.
- Outdoor activities should be minimized between 10am-3pm where possible.
- Play activities will be set up in the shade and moved throughout the day to take advantage of shade patterns.
- School to ensure that adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and outdoor events.
- School to ensure that 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, sporting areas, outdoor lesson areas.
- Regular shade assessments should be conducted to monitor existing shade structures and assist in future plans for additional shade and upgrades.

2. Hats

- All children are required to wear sun-safe hats that protect their face, neck and ears when outside. Sun-safe hats include:
 - bucket hats with a deep crown and brim size of at least 6cm
 - broad-brimmed hats with a brim size of at least 7.5cm
 - legionnaire style hats.(Please note: Baseball caps or visors are not sun-safe hats.)
- Children without a sun safe hat are not permitted to play outside.

3. Sunscreen

- Staff and children are regularly reminded to apply SPF30+ (or higher), broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen before going outdoors and reapply every 2 hours, or more frequently if sweating or swimming.
- Sunscreen is supplied by the school and available for students to access before school and during break times.

- Children are encouraged to apply sunscreen themselves under adult supervision.
- Sunscreen is stored in a cool, dry place and the expiry date is monitored.

4. Role Modelling

- All new staff are to be briefed on the Sun Protection Policy upon engagement at the school.
- Staff are required to act as role models and demonstrate sun-safe behaviour by:
 - Wearing a sun-safe hat, clothing and sunscreen, and seeking shade whenever possible
 - Wearing sunglasses (optional)
 - Encouraging families and visitors to role model positive sun-safe behaviour when at the school.

5. Education and information

- Sun Safety education is included in Health programs.
- Sun protection is promoted via newsletters, assemblies, daily messages, whole school activities, and parent and staff meetings.

EXPECTATIONS

Parents/carers will support the school's Sun Protection Policy by:

- Ensuring that your child/children has a broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket style hat which they bring to school every day.
- Ensuring that your child/children has a Swim top to wear during our annual Swimming Program.
- Ensuring that your child/children has access to SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen before leaving for school.
- Acting as positive role models by practising SunSmart behaviour.

Students will support the school's Sun Protection Policy by:

- Being aware of the school's Sun Protection Policy.
- Taking responsibility for their health by being SunSmart.
- Complying with SunSmart rules and guidelines by wearing suitable hats and clothing.
- Applying SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen before going outdoors.
- Where possible using shaded or covered areas outdoors.
- Acting as positive role models for other students in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour.
- Participating in SunSmart education programs.

REVIEW

Each year the School in conjunction with the P&C will:

- Review the SunSmart behaviour of students, staff, parents and visitors to make recommendations for improvement.
- Assess shade provision and usage and make recommendations for increased shade provision.
- Update and promote curriculum material relevant to SunSmart activities.