

Policy Title: UV Protection Policy

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Last Reviewed: 2010

Related Policies: DET – Sun Protection Policy 2006 (Identifier SP200609)

1. Policy Statement

Maribyrnong Primary has a duty of care to ensure that sun protection is provided for students while they are on school premises during school hours or undertaking school activities. There is a shared responsibility between the school and parents/carers regarding sun protection for students. Students should be made aware of the damaging effects of ultraviolet radiation caused by exposure to the sun and the need to protect their skin from high levels of radiation.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the procedures used to protect students and staff at Maribyrnong Primary School, to the greatest extent practicable, from the dangers associated with over- exposure to the sun's ultraviolet radiation (UVR).

3. Rationale

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world – one out of two Australians will develop skin cancer. Exposure to ultraviolet radiation is a major contributory factor in the development of skin cancer. Levels of ultraviolet radiation are particularly high in Canberra due to our altitude, clean air and the numbers of hours of sunshine. This policy aims to protect students, as far as reasonably practicable, from the dangers of exposure to the sun.

4. Definitions

- *Parents/Carers:* people with parental responsibility and guardians.
- *Duty of Care:* legal duty of care requires that teachers should take all reasonable measures to ensure the safety of a school student under their care. This duty of care will arise whenever a student/teacher relationship exists.

5. Procedures

5.1 Protective Clothing & Shade Provision

- All students are expected to wear sun-smart hats when they are outside in the sun. A sun-smart hat is a broad-brimmed hat, bucket hat, or legionnaire's cap.
- Due to the dangers of choking associated with the cords on some hats the school recommends that these cords are removed from the hats unless they have a release function in the hat. Hats purchased from the school (P&C) now have a release function.
- Students who do not wear a sun-smart hat during play times will be directed to the shaded undercover area in front of the library (except during June and July). This reinforces our procedure of 'no hat – play in the shade'.
- Due to the low levels of ultraviolet radiation in Canberra during the winter months the ACT Cancer Council does not recommend sun protection during June and July. Students will not be redirected to sit in the shade during these months.

- All tops worn at school will need to have sleeves. Students will not be permitted to play outside if they are wearing singlets or shirts with cut off sleeves.
- All staff will be encouraged to wear protective clothing when outside in the sun and to act as good role models.
- Where practical, children will be able to wear sunglasses when playing outdoors.
- During school sports carnivals or other outdoor activities that may involve volunteers/visitors, the school will inform the visitors of our sun protection procedures and encourage them to act as good role models by practising sun protection behaviour. This will be done via the newsletter or when advertising the upcoming event.

5.2 Sunscreen

- The school will encourage the use of sunscreen by students by:
 - Encouraging parents to supply SPF 30+ sunscreen as part of their child's school equipment;
 - Encouraging parents/carers to apply sunscreen to their child before the child comes to school;
 - Reminding and encouraging students to apply and reapply sunscreen on all excursions and camps.
- Allowing students time to apply sunscreen in the classroom before going outside to play.
- Students will be encouraged to apply sunscreen themselves. Parents should be aware that teachers may not be able to assist every child to apply sunscreen.
- If a student is allergic to sunscreen, parents/carers must notify the school about this on the medical form completed at the beginning of the year.

5.3 Outdoor Activities

- The school will minimise the amount of time students spend outdoors between 11:00am and 3:00pm (Daylight Savings Time) and 10:00am and 2:00pm (Eastern Standard Time).
- Teachers will be asked to timetable outdoor activities earlier in the day, especially during Daylight Savings Time.
- The school has a large number of large established trees that provide ample shade. Students will be encouraged to use these trees as play areas to avoid the sun.
- Children will be encouraged to wear rash vests or a t-shirt for any outdoor swimming activities.

5.4 Education, Communication & Evaluation

- Parents will be informed of the Sun Protection Policy when they enrol their child at Maribyrnong Primary School.
- Students will learn about sun protection behaviours as part of a Health/PE program and the sun protection message will be reinforced during student assemblies.
- The school will communicate the Sun Protection Policy through the school newsletter at least once a semester. An updated copy will be posted on the school website and a copy will also be kept in a policy register at the front office. The Sun Protection Policy will be freely available for parents through the Front Office and on the school's website.
- The school will ensure that the information on sun protection procedures will be conveyed to new staff when they commence at the school and to relief teachers at the commencement of employment.
- Assess shade provision and usage and make recommendations.
- Where a student consistently refuses to practice sun protection procedures the school will communicate with a parent/carers via a phone call or note home.
- The school will review the Sun Protection Policy regularly to ensure it complies with any new guidelines that may be published by the ACT Education and Training Directorate or by the ACT Cancer Council.

6. Contact

For further information contact the Principal of Maribyrnong Primary School.



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