



Briar Hill Primary School

SunSmart Policy

RATIONALE

The SunSmart Policy has been developed to ensure that all children and staff attending Briar Hill Primary School and its Outside School Hours Care program are protected, as far as practicable, from skin and eye damage caused by harmful ultraviolet rays.

The Sun Smart Policy is needed because:

- Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world.
- Currently two out of three Australians will contract skin cancer at some stage of their lives.
- The major cause of skin cancer is the exposure to ultraviolet radiation during childhood and adolescence.
- It has been recommended by the Anti Cancer Council that children have exposure to the sun during the months from May to August to ensure they get enough vitamin D.

PURPOSE

- To heighten the awareness of the whole school community of the importance of sun safe behaviour in our children now, in order to prevent the harmful effects of U.V. radiation.
- To encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures in Terms 1 and 4.
- To encourage appropriate behaviours in our students to reduce the risk of Vitamin D deficiency in Terms 2 and 3.
- To raise awareness of the risks of UV exposure during Terms 2 and 3 and encourage appropriate SunSmart behaviours during that period.

GUIDELINES

- The school will endeavour to ensure there is adequate provision of shade, as far as practicable, within the school grounds for the number of children by providing shade structures. The children will be encouraged to use these areas.
- The school will seek ongoing support from parents and the community for the Sun Smart Policy and its implementation.
- The school will ensure that Briar Hill Primary School broad-brimmed hats which provide protection for the face, neck and ears be available for purchase from the school office.

- Children will wear the appropriate clothing i.e. SunSmart hats and sleeves, at sport/physical education sessions, excursions (including swimming), in the Outside School Hours Care program, at recess times, and for all extracurricular activities during Term 1 and Term 4.
- Children will be encouraged to wear the same protective clothing as required during Term 2 and Term 3.
- Children will be involved in a variety of activities, which promote and encourage SunSmart awareness e.g. Fun Hat day, visiting speakers etc.
- It is the responsibility of parents to provide their children with personal sunscreen, labeled with their name, to be used at school, during excursions and at the Outside School Hours Care program.
- Staff are to encourage children to apply their own SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen, wear a hat and play in shaded areas.
- Staff will allow for children's timely application of sunscreen.
- It is the responsibility of the Outside School Hours Care Program to remind children to wear hats, apply their own sunscreen and play in shaded areas.
- On days of extreme heat the students will be provided with appropriate indoor activities.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Children who do not have adequate protection will be directed to play in a shaded area. Particular care will be taken between 10 am-2 pm (11 am – 3 pm daylight saving time) when UV levels reach their peak.
- Teachers will incorporate SunSmart activities as part of their programs.
- Outside School Hours Care staff will implement the SunSmart Policy.
- The School Council will take into consideration the provision of shaded areas when planning for future buildings, school ground needs and improvements.
- Regular newsletter articles will be published to inform the school community of safe SunSmart practices.

EVALUATION

Indicators of success will be determined by:

- the number of children demonstrating sunsafe behaviours.
- the availability of suitable shaded areas within the school grounds in proportion to the school population.

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

USEFUL LINKS

www.sunsmart.com.au

Ratified by the School Council on _____

Signature of School Council President _____