



Sun Safe Policy

DATE: April 2014

REVIEW DATE: every two years

Rationale

By reducing exposure to the sun and increasing the uptake of sun safe strategies, schools can make a significant contribution to community efforts to reduce skin cancer and related sun damage. Each school has a responsibility to provide a safe environment for students and staff and this includes providing adequate protection from the sun.

Families, schools and the communities share responsibility for the health, safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and young people in their care. The school community, including families work together to take all reasonable actions to protect students from risks of harm that can be reasonably predicted due to ultraviolet radiation from the sun.

Our school takes sun safety seriously and implements a range of strategies to support a school environment that protects students from the damaging effects of the sun. Oatlands Public School is a member of SunSmart for primary schools, an initiative of the NSW Cancer Council.

Teachers, parents and carers and visitors to the school all have a role to model sun safety, for example, wearing a hat for school activities held outside.

Planning for Sun Protection

At Oatlands Public School we provide a range of effective programs and strategies for sun protection including:

- Explicitly teaching students about the need for sun protection and sun safety.
- Regular communication with the school community through the school newsletter, at assemblies and through the PBL / School Welfare system, about sun protection and sun safety.
- Promotion of sun protection as a health and safety issue.
- Positive role modelling by staff.
- Protection from ultraviolet radiation for all outdoor activities.

Students will be encouraged and supported to protect themselves from the harmful effects of ultraviolet radiation from the sun by:

- Reducing their exposure to the sun wherever possible.
- Wearing a hat while outdoors.
- Wearing suitable clothing to protect themselves from the sun.
- Applying sunscreen as an additional sun protection measure.
- Parents and caregivers are asked to provide to students sunscreen for excursions and sporting carnivals where there may be an increased exposure to the sun.

As a result of the school's planning for sun protection and sun safety:

- Students will understand the importance of sun safety and sun protection and take effective action to protect them.
- Parents, staff and other school community members will understand the risks of sun exposure and will support the school's sun protection plan.

Strategies that support the schools implementation of the sun safe message:

- Students are to be taught about sun safety as part of the school's PBL program.
- Draws will be conducted during morning assemblies throughout the school year to reward students who are wearing a school hat with an ice block or equivalent. Bear tickets can also be awarded to students for demonstrating sun safety.
- The school PBL team will include the wearing of hats in the fortnightly PBL focus / Oatlands Pride award system.
- The use of sunscreen is encouraged for outdoor activities.
- Teachers enforce the rule of "NO HAT PLAY IN THE SHADE".
- Teachers and school community members to model sun safety.

Evaluation

This policy will initially be reviewed at the end of 2014 and then be reviewed every two years.