Sun Protection Policy

Skin cancer is the most common and costly cancer in Australia. It has been estimated that up to 90 percent of skin cancer could potentially be prevented if people reduced their exposure to the sun. As over exposure to the sun in the first 15 years of life has been consistently identified as a major risk factor for developing skin cancer our Sun Protection Policy involves a broad range of strategies. These all aim to encourage students and school adults to adopt sun protective behaviours in an effort to assist individuals in developing personal responsibility towards protection from the effect of UV radiation.

HAT POLICY

At Blyth Primary School the wearing of broad brimmed hats is compulsory all year round. Students should therefore have access to a broad brimmed hat at school all year round. The school has navy wide brimmed hats and bucket hats for sale. Our hats have a 50+ Ultraviolet Protection Factor (UPF) therefore offer excellent protection for students.

PROACTIVE STRATEGIES

- Students who do not have their hats will be asked to play in an area protected from the sun or wear a spare hat for fitness and excursions.
- School polo shirts are 40+ UPF and have collars and short sleeves.
- Outdoor activities will be scheduled before 10.00 am and after 3.00 pm where practical.
- Outdoor activities are to be conducted in shaded areas when possible.
- SPF 30+ broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen will be provided for staff and students and ideally applied 20 minutes before going outside. Sunscreen is available from the classroom teacher. Staff will ensure that sunscreen is not out of date.
- Discussion about skin and ways to protect it from skin cancer is included in the Health Curriculum.
- Staff model Sunsmart behaviour
- Newsletter items referring to parents and caregivers being positive role models
- Parents requested to wear hats when accompanying children on outings and sporting events.
- Tents provided for students on SAPSASA MidNorth athletics day and on the MidNorth Sports Day

Endorsed by staff and Governing Council on 17th May 2010
Reviewed 15th May 2012