



College council will review this policy every three years or as directed by DET

Date approved: June 2016

Date of next review: 2019

RATIONALE

Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world, with two out of three Australians developing some form of skin cancer during their lifetime. Over-exposure to the sun during childhood and adolescence is known to be a major cause of skin cancer. Increasing the awareness of all members of the College community to the dangers of ultra violet (UV) radiation and to protective measures which can be taken may ultimately reduce the risk of injury occurring.

DEFINITIONS

UV radiation is part of the sun's light which burns and damages skin. UV radiation levels are at their highest between 10am and 2pm (11am and 3pm during daylight saving time). UV radiation increases sharply from October, reaches its peak in January and decreases during March. Everyone is at risk of developing skin cancer.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to:

- increase student and community awareness of skin cancer;
- develop strategies which encourage responsible life-long decision making about sun protection;
- safe school-built environment;
- continually encourage students, teachers and other staff to wear protective clothing, hats and sunscreen at high risk - times such as recess, lunchtime, outdoor physical education and sport, and outdoor excursions and camps.

IMPLEMENTATION

Curriculum –

- Skin cancer awareness issues, including the appropriate use of sunscreen will be included in the Years 7 – 10 Health and Physical Education and Sport Programs.
- Teachers will have access to up-to-date information on skin cancer and its prevention.

Behaviour –

The College actively encourages a hat protection for outdoor sport / PE participation.

The College Uniform Code includes a College sports cap which should be worn during outdoor Physical Education and Sport in Terms 1 and 4.

- Students will be advised to wear protective sunglasses at times of prolonged exposure to the sun during appropriate physical education and sport sessions.
- Students will be advised to use a broad-spectrum sunscreen of at least SPF15+ during all outdoor activities and to maintain a personal supply of sunscreen in their lockers.

Organisation –

- Outdoor assemblies will be held under the shade during times of high risk.
- Sunscreen will be available for use by staff and students involved in outdoor activities, including yard duty.
- Maximum use of indoor and shaded facilities / areas will be made at times of high risk. The Sports and Physical Educational Co-ordinators, in conjunction with the Administration, may decide on days of extreme risk of skin and eye damage to modify outdoor exposure time or to suspend all non-essential outdoor activities.
- Students attending sporting carnivals as spectators will be advised to take suitable sun protection measures.
- Physical Education, Sport and other teachers and staff will be encouraged to take appropriate sun protection measures and to emphasise sun protection amongst the students.
- Suitable hats/clothing and sunscreen will be included on camp/excursion letters or clothing lists.
- Students will receive advice on days of extreme risk to stay in the shade, wear sunscreen and a cap/hat during recess and lunch breaks.
- Communication with parents and students regarding the need for student sun protection will be made via the College newsletter and bulletin, at assemblies and at parent and staff meetings.

Occupational Health and Safety –

All staff will be encouraged to adopt sun protection measures when involved in outdoor activities, including yard duty. Staff who have concerns regarding sun protection should relay these concerns to the Administration.

Environment –

The Finance, Resources and Facilities Committee of College Council will as a priority review manage and implement the shade strategy for the College grounds.