



# Sun Protection Policy

## Rationale

Australia has one of the highest incidences of skin cancer in the world, with two out of three people being diagnosed with skin cancer before aged 70. A balance of ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure is important for health. Too much of the sun's UV radiation can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Sun exposure during childhood and adolescence is a major factor in determining future skin cancer risk. Melanoma is the most common cancer in Australians aged 12-24 years, and sun exposure during childhood and adolescence is a critical factor in determining future skin cancer risk. Cancer Council SA advises people to protect their skin at times when the ultraviolet (UV) radiation level is 3 and above, as this is when it is strong enough to cause damage to unprotected skin.

Our sun protection policy will be in effect for school terms 1, 3 and 4 and when advised by leadership during term 2, when and if the UV rating is 3 or above. Teachers will be advised of the predicted UV rating each day and advise students when hats are required. Students should always have their hats with them whilst attending school and on outside excursions.

## Aims

The aims of the Kilkenny Primary School Sun Protection Policy are to promote among the school community:

- A positive attitude towards skin protection
- Everyday practices which can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer and related illnesses
- Personal responsibility for decision making about skin care and protection
- Awareness of strategies to protect our bodies from overexposure to UV radiation from the sun.

## Expectations

It is an expectation that all staff, students and the community of Kilkenny Primary School abide by the following Sun Protection strategies:

### 1. Hats

All students are required to wear the Kilkenny Primary School school hat or a plain navy hat, either bucket or wide brim hat, that protects their face, neck and ears whenever they are outside. Baseball or peak caps are not acceptable.

### 2. Clothing

Sun protective clothing is included in the school uniform/dress code. Our uniform consists of clothing that is cool, loose fitting and made of closely woven fabric. It includes tops with a collar and elbow length sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts.

On casual clothes day, students are still required to dress in clothing to protect their skin.

### 3. Sunscreen

All classrooms will have a broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen with an SPF 50 available for students to apply whenever the UV is 3 and above. It will be advised that all students apply sunscreen 20 minutes before going outside and reapply every 2 hours if outside for extended periods of time. If students are required to have a specific brand of sunscreen it is their responsibility to have it at school, in their bag, and labelled to ensure they can be sun safe at school.

### 4. Shade



Students are encouraged to use available shade when outside. If students do not have a hat, they will be sent to the deck and sit in the shade for each break or borrow a spare hat if one is available.

## **5. Curriculum**

Programs on skin cancer prevention are included in the Health curriculum for all year levels. SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters and parent and carer communication.

## **6. Staff WHS and role modelling**

Staff will role model SunSmart strategies in all school activities and when outside when the UV is 3 and above. Visitors and the wider community are encouraged to role model SunSmart behaviours when participating in or attending outdoor activities with the school.

The Kilkenny Primary School Sun Protection Policy is to be reviewed regularly to ensure the information remains current and relevant and follows the guidelines from the Cancer Council SA.

## **Communication and review**

This policy has been undertaken in consultation with:

- Staff at Kilkenny Primary School
- Students through the Student Leadership Team
- the Governing Council

This policy can be accessed on the Kilkenny Primary School website. This policy will be reviewed in June 2027.