



## Applecross Primary School

### SunSmart Sun Protection Policy

#### Rationale

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Overexposure to the sun during childhood and adolescence is an important contributing factor to the development of skin cancer later in life. As students are at school during times of peak ultraviolet (UV) radiation, schools can play a major role in creating a supportive environment that minimises exposure and encourages sun-protective behaviours.

**Reviewed:** MAY24

#### Aim

Our Sun Protection Policy has been developed to ensure that all students, staff, parents and visitors attending Applecross Primary are protected from skin damage caused by harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun.

#### Our Commitment

- Inform parents of this sun protection policy.
- Brief all new staff on the sun protection policy.
- Promote sun protection via newsletters, assemblies, daily messages, whole school activities, and parent and staff meetings.
- Require students to wear broad-brimmed, bucket hats when outside.
- Direct students without a bucket hat to stay in an area that is protected from the sun.
- Require staff to wear broad-brimmed, bucket hats for all outdoor activities, including yard duty.
- Encourage parents and guests to wear broad-brimmed or bucket-style hats when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.
- Require students to wear broad-brimmed or bucket hats, and sunscreen for all camps, sports and excursions.
- Require staff and students to wear a swim (rash) top for swimming (this may not be appropriate during competitive swimming.)
- Strive to ensure there is adequate provision of shade within the school grounds for students and staff, particularly in areas where students congregate, for example, during eating and outdoor play/ lesson areas.
- Encourage staff and students to use shaded or covered areas when outside.
- Ensure that adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and outdoor events.
- When the UV index is below 3 activities should be scheduled as far from 12 noon as possible.
- Encourage the use of SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen by:
  - asking parents to put sunscreen on children as part of their morning routine before school begins at home.
  - providing sunscreen in the classroom.
  - Incorporate sun protection and skin cancer awareness programs into the appropriate Key Learning Areas of the school curriculum.
  - Review the sun protection policy annually.

## Our Expectations

### Parents/carers will:

- Ensure your child/children has a bucket style hat.
- swim (rash) tops for outdoor swimming.
- Ensure that your child/children has/have access to SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen before leaving for school.
- Act as positive role models by practising SunSmart behaviour.
- Support the school's sun protection policy.

### Students will:

- Be aware of the school's sun protection policy.
- Take responsibility for their health by being SunSmart.
- Comply with SunSmart rules and guidelines by wearing suitable hats and clothing.
- Use shaded or covered areas outdoors wherever practicable.
- Act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour.
- Be actively involved in initiatives to protect the school community from over-exposure to the sun.
- Participate in SunSmart education programs.

## Evaluation

Principal, staff, student leaders and the School Board will review the effectiveness of this policy each year and make any necessary changes.

### They will:

- Review the SunSmart behaviour of students, and staff, and make any recommendations for improvement.
- Assess shade provision and usage and make recommendations for increases in shade provision.
- Update and promote curriculum material relevant to SunSmart activities.

**Nex Review:** MAY25