

ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, HOLBROOK



Sun Protection Policy

Primary schools can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer and the number of related deaths by encouraging all members of the school community to take effective skin protective measures. At St. Patrick's School staff take very seriously their responsibilities to educate students about sun smart practices.

Aim:

The aim of this Sun Protection Policy is to promote among students, staff and parents:

- Positive attitudes towards skin protection
- Lifestyle practices which can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer and the number of related deaths
- Personal responsibility for and decision making about skin protection
- Awareness of the need for environmental changes in schools to reduce the level of exposure to the sun.

Strategies

Scheduled Outdoor Activities

- When planning outdoor activities consideration is given to sun protection.
- Outdoor activities will be held in areas of shade whenever possible.
- Teachers will schedule outdoor activities before 10am and after 2pm (11am and 3pm daylight saving time) whenever possible.

Shade

- Staff consider shade or indoor options for all activities and excursions.
- Students will be encouraged to use available areas of shade for outdoor play activities.
- Provided shelter and shade areas include shade sails over play areas, covered outdoor learning area (COLA) and trees.

Hats

- Students will wear broad brimmed hats which protect the face, neck and ears whenever they are outside eg sport, sports carnivals, outdoor excursions and activities.
- Students who do not have their hats with them will play in an area protected from the sun.

A "No Hat – Play in the Shade" strategy is adopted.

Clothing

- The wearing of sun-safe clothing that provides protection from the sun is encouraged e.g shirts with colours and sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts.

- Students will be encouraged to wear rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming.

Sunscreen

- St. Patrick's School provides SPF 50+ broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen in each classroom.
- Staff and students are also encouraged to carry their own sunscreen.
- Staff and students are encouraged to apply sunscreen before all outdoor activities and every 2 hours thereafter if still outdoors.

Role Modelling of Staff

- Staff will be encouraged to act as role models by practising Sun Smart behaviour i.e. wearing protective hats and appropriate clothing for all outdoor activities, using a SPF 30+ broad-spectrum or higher water resistant sunscreen for skin protection, seeking shade whenever possible.

Curriculum

- Staff teach sun safety across all Key Learning Areas in all year levels so that students gain an understanding of why sun safety is important and effective sun protection actions to take.

Informing the School Community

- St Patrick's School regularly reinforces the Sun Smart Policy in a positive way through newsletters, parent meetings, student and teacher activities.

Enrolling Students

Prospective parents are

- Informed of the Sun Smart Policy.
- Requested to purchase a broad brimmed school hat
- Encouraged to provide a broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen which is at least SPF 30+ for their child's use.
- Encouraged to act as positive role models and practice skin protective behaviour themselves, particularly when attending school functions.

Review

This Sun Protection Policy will be reviewed in line with other school policies and resubmitted to Cancer Council NSW every three years i.e 2021.