



# Werrimull P-12 School

## Sun Protection Policy

### **Rationale:**

A balance of ultraviolet radiation (UV) exposure is important for health. Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Sun exposure in the first 10 years of life is a major factor in determining future skin cancer risk.

Too little UV from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels. Vitamin D is essential for healthy bones and muscles, and for general health. Students must therefore be educated as to the need for suitable sun protection, and they must be protected from over exposure to the sun whilst at school.

### **Aims:**

- To increase student and community awareness of skin cancer and other damage caused by UV radiation.
- To work towards a safe school environment that provides shade and other sun protective measures for the entire school community.
- To encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures.
- To ensure that families and new staff are informed of the school's sun protection policy.

### **Implementation:**

- Sun protective clothing is included in our school dress code in the following ways:
  - The summer (terms 1 and 4) dress code includes a loose fitting close-weave cotton or cotton/polyester blend shirt with elbow length sleeves and a collar that fits close to the neck, above the collarbone for both standard uniform and sports uniform.
  - The summer (terms 1 and 4) dress code includes knee length or longer skirts and shorts as well as full length pants for standard uniform and mid-thigh length skirts and shorts as well as full track pants for sports uniform.
  - All students and staff are encouraged to wear school approved broad brimmed hats that shade their face, neck and ears when outside during terms 1 and 4 or when the UV index level is 3 or above.
  - Rash vests or T-shirts or similar are compulsory for students waiting to compete in outdoor swimming events.
  - Students and staff will be encouraged to wear close fitting, wrap around sunglasses (AS 1067) – Categories 2, 3 or 4 when outside.
- Broad spectrum SPF 30+ water resistant sunscreen will be readily available in all classrooms and on excursions and camps and in staff areas for use by both students and staff.
- Staff will encourage the use of sunscreen by students, will be encouraged to model sunscreen use, and will provide time for students to apply sunscreen before going outside.
- Information about sunscreen and the correct use of sunscreen will be displayed around Werrimull P-12 School and will be provided to the community via the Pipeline.
- Consideration to sun protection will be given when planning all outdoor events including assemblies, excursions and sporting events, and where possible events will be scheduled earlier in the morning, later in the afternoon or indoors.
- School Council will plan for, and provide adequate shade structures for students as practicable; particularly over high-density areas such as eating spaces and passive leisure locations.

Temporary shade structures will be erected at events such as swimming and athletic sports, and shade will be a consideration when planning outdoor activities and excursions.

- Students will be encouraged to utilise shade when outside during terms 1 and 4, however, if they have chosen not to wear a hat and have not taken proper sun protection precautions, they will be directed to position themselves under the shade.
- The Pipeline, school assemblies, and staff meetings will be used to highlight and reinforce the Sun Protection policy.
- The Sun Protection policy will appear on the school website and will form part of each staff member's induction program.
- Sun protection will form part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum at all year levels, as will the monitoring of UV Alerts throughout the year.
- Werrimull P-12 School will seek to achieve Sun Protection accreditation with the Cancer Council.

**Evaluation:**

- The principal will ensure that School Council and staff review this policy as part of the school's review process.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

**June 2012**