

Sun Smart & Hot Weather Policy

Aim:

To promote among staff and students:

- Positive attitudes toward skin protection
- Lifestyle practices which can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer
- Personal responsibility for decision making about skin protection
- Awareness of maintaining a safe environment for staff and students in hot weather

Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Much of the damage occurs during childhood and adolescence. Research suggests that severe sunburn is a contributor to skin cancer and other forms of skin damage such as wrinkles, sunspots, blemishes and premature ageing. Most skin damage and skin cancer is therefore, preventable.

Strategies for skin protection:

- During term 1 and 4 students and staff will be encouraged to wear wide brimmed hats which protect the face, neck and ears and apply sunscreen whenever they are outside, eg sporting events, outdoor excursions, activities at recess and lunch, staff on yard duty.
- Staff and children will be encouraged to wear clothing during Term 1 and 4 that offers good skin protection.
- Staff will encourage students to seek shaded areas during Terms 1 and 4.
- Staff are encouraged to inform students about “sunsmart” behaviour during homegroups on a regular basis during Term 1 and 4.
- Parents and Visitors are to be encouraged to wear hats while on school activities.

Strategies during Hot Weather:

- If the 7.30pm ABC news forecast is 39°C or above at Noarlunga, parents have the right to keep students at home the following day.
- Upon their return to school, students will need to present a note from home indicating absence due to hot weather.
- Students that come to school will be informed that it is a hot weather day and will have negotiated curriculum.
- If the temperature is 36°C or above, an automatic student notice will recommend to all students that:
 - a. they seek shaded areas.
 - b. active sports cease.
 - c. students drink plenty of water and can bring it to class.