



montessori school

Sun Protection Policy for Students and Staff

1.1 Introduction

It is estimated that 75% of skin cancers could be prevented by implementing sun protection policies from early childhood. Banksia Montessori school is committed to helping reduce the skin cancer problem through its strict policy relating to sun protection and implement the SunSmart policy of “No hat, no play”, which applies to all children. A broad brimmed hat is required for every child during outdoor play, excursions and picnics. The school provides sunscreen to be used by all children and staff. Parents are free to buy their own sunscreen for their child. Staff are encouraged to also use the sunscreen provided by the school, wear a hat outdoors and protect their eyes with sunglasses.

1.2 Rationale

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Research indicates that childhood sun exposure is an important contributing factor to the development of skin cancer. As students are at school during times when UV radiation levels are at their highest, schools play a major role in minimising student’s UV exposure. The school has adopted the SunSmart policy to ensure all staff and children attending Banksia are protected from skin damage caused by UV radiation from the sun. This policy is to be implemented throughout the year, but with particular emphasis from the beginning of September through to the end of May. The sun protection practices outlined in this policy will be applied to all school activities, including play time and excursions. This policy has been developed in consultation with the whole school community.

1.3 The Schools’ commitment to reducing sun cancer rates in Australia

Banksia will:

- Inform parents of this SunSmart policy when they enrol their child;
- Promote sun protection information and include sun protection education in the school curriculum;
- Ensure there is adequate provision of shade within the school grounds for students and staff, by planting trees and building shade structures;
- Encouraging staff to wear hats, sunglasses and apply sunscreen;
- Encourage role modelling of sun protective behaviour by staff, parents and guests;
- Direct children without a hat to play in shade;
- Encourage staff and students to use shaded or covered areas when outside;
- Timetable outdoor activities during the coolest parts of the school day;
- Encourage the use of SPF 30+, water-resistant sunscreen by providing sunscreen in the classroom allowing students time to apply sunscreen prior to outdoor activities; and
- Reviewing the SunSmart policy when necessary.

1.4 The School's Expectations

Parents/Guardians will:

- Provide a SunSmart Banksia hat for their child and ensure that they wear it to and from school;
- Ensure that their child apply SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before leaving for school;
- Ensure that their child's clothing provides adequate protection from UV radiation. The Cancer Council WA recommends the following:
 - collars and sleeves
 - closely woven fabric
 - natural fibre
- Act as positive role models by practising SunSmart behaviour; and
- Support the school's SunSmart policy, remain informed and help update the policy.

Students and Staff will:

- Be aware of the school's SunSmart policy;
- Take responsibility for their health by being SunSmart;
- Comply with SunSmart rules and guidelines by wearing suitable hats and clothing;
- Apply SPF30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen before going outdoors;
- Use shaded or covered areas outdoors;
- Act as positive role models for younger students;
- Participate in SunSmart education programs.

1.5 Evaluation

The Principal will review the effectiveness of this policy when required.

She will:

- Review the SunSmart behaviour of students, staff, parents, and visitors and make recommendations for improvement;
- Assess shade provision and usage and make recommendations for to increase in shade provision if necessary; and

Promote material relevant to SunSmart activities.

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Signed by Chairperson:	Council Approval Date: March 2021
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