



SUNSAFE

MYPONGA PRIMARY SCHOOL POLICY

Issue 8
Date: February 2021
Review: February 2022

Rationale:

Australia has one of the highest incidences of skin cancer in the world, with skin cancers accounting for around 80% of all new cancers diagnosed each year in Australia. Two in three Australians will be diagnosed with skin cancer by the time they are 70. More than 2000 people died from skin cancer in 2011. Exposure to the sun and/or excessive heat can therefore present a significant health risk.

Aims:

- To educate students about sun safe protection.
- To encourage children and teachers to protect themselves from the harmful effects of the sun.
- To keep students and staff safe.

Implementation:

- This policy is to be read as part of our Student Dress Code.
- If the actual temperature Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) is 36 degrees or more at the beginning of a scheduled break time, yard play will be cancelled and the inclement weather process will apply.
- Students will be required to wear sun safe approved close-weave broad brimmed hats, legionnaire hats or school bucket hats, **from the beginning of term 4 until the end of term 1** whenever they are outside. These hats are available from our uniform supply. Hats will need to be kept at school at all times.
- Appropriate skin protective clothing must be worn for all outside activities. This includes shirts with collars or high (roll) neck and sleeves for ALL outside activities and the wearing of a rash vest or close fitting T-shirt over bathers for outdoor swimming/aquatics/beach activities.
- Staff will act as role models by also wearing broad brimmed hats when outside.
- Students without suitable hats will be restricted to play in designated shaded areas.
- Students will be actively encouraged to wear a broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen (SPF30+). Sunscreen will be provided in each classroom and on excursions. Sunscreen will be applied by students according to the manufacturer's directions, under the supervision of teachers.
- Parents will be encouraged to send children to school wearing sunscreen and to provide their own sun screen.
- Whenever outside events are planned, potential exposure to UV/heat will be considered prior to organising the event e.g. sports days, celebration days. Sports Day will be rescheduled if the forecast the night before on BOM is 32 degrees or above.
- Adequate shade structures for students will be provided in school grounds.
- The school newsletter and school assemblies will be used to highlight and reinforce the sun safe policy.
- Sunsafe activities and sun protection will form part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum at all year levels – slip, slop, slap, seek and slide.
- The use of sunglasses that have an Eye Protection Factor (EPF) rating of 10 and are from category of two, three or four and meet the Australian Standards AS/NZ1067:2003 is encouraged where appropriate.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed annually.