Mary MacKillop Memorial School

Sun Smart Policy

Developed by: Staff and School Board

Note: All references to ‘Staff members’ include Administration Staff, Support Teachers, Teachers and Temporary Relieving Teachers.

Underlying Assumptions, Philosophy and Rationale:
We at Mary MacKillop Memorial School believe that:

- Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world.
- Ultra Violet (UV) radiation is part of the Sun’s light that burns and damages the skin.
- The higher the UV radiation the greater the potential for damage to skin.
- Too much exposure to UV will cause skin damage, too little can lead to Vitamin D deficiency.
- To ensure a healthy balance between UV exposure and UV protection, it is recommended that skin is protected when UV is 3 and above.
- For much of South Australia this tends to occur from the beginning of September to the end of May.
- The crucial period for sustaining sun damage occurs during the first 20 years of life.
- Schools can play a significant role in changing behaviours through education and modelling.
- Wearing a hat and sunscreen when participating in outside activities during the months when UV is 3 and above is a positive and healthy habit for children to form.
- During the months of June –August sun protection (including hats) are not needed on the days when UV level is below 3.
- Schools have a responsibility to initiate and implement skin cancer prevention strategies in the interests of students’ health. The students, parents/carers, staff and visitors need to be aware of the harmful effects of UV radiation.

Purpose/Aims:
Through the application of this policy, we at Mary MacKillop Memorial School aim to:

- Increase the school community’s awareness of skin cancer and the importance of skin protection.
- Increase the school community’s awareness of the importance of a healthy balance between UV exposure and UV protection.
- Encourage children’s responsibility for and decision making about skin protection.
- Increase awareness of the need for environmental changes in our school to reduce the level of exposure to the sun.
- Encourage students, parents/carers, staff and visitors to wear protective clothing, hats and sunscreen from 1 September to the 31 May when involved in outside activities. E.g. break times, excursions, sporting activities, camps etc.
Guidelines:

In support of this policy

The Principal will:

- Ensure that all staff, students, parent/carers are aware of the School’s Sun Smart Policy.
- Inform parents/carers of the Sun Smart Policy during enrolment.
- Ensure a shady area is used during high risk times for lunch and outdoor activities, with shortened breaks for recess and lunch in extreme weather.

All Staff members will:

- Wear a broad brimmed hat when participating in any school outdoor activity including yard duty from 1 September to 31 May.
- Wear clothing that has sleeves when outdoors (no sleeveless clothes when outdoors).
- Model appropriate Sun Smart behaviour.
- Ensure that all students wear a school hat whenever they are involved in outdoor school activities from 1 September to 31 May.
- Whenever possible all outdoor activities will be scheduled out of high risk times.
- Encourage students to apply sunscreen 15 minutes before they come to school each day and 15 minutes prior to lunch, PE or other outdoor activity from 1 September to 31 May.
- Ensure that skin cancer prevention education is included in the curriculum across all year levels.
- Ensure that the ‘No hat. No play’ rule is enforced from 1 September to 31 May.

Students will:

- Wear a school hat whenever they are involved in outdoor school activities from 1 September to 31 May.
- Be encouraged to apply SPF30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen before school and again 15 minutes prior to lunch each day from 1 September to 31 May.
- Supply their own sunscreen.
- Follow the ‘No hat. No play’ rule from 1 September to 31 May.
- During the winter months (June, July, August) sun protection, including the wearing of hats and sunscreen will not be required. Families may use their own discretion in the wearing of hat & sunscreen during these months.

Parents/Carers will:

- Ensure that all students have the use of a school hat from 1 September to 31 May.
- Provide children with sunscreen.
- Be aware of the school’s ‘Sun Smart’ policy.

Visitors will:

- Be encouraged to follow the school’s ‘Sun Smart’ policy.

Implementation:

- All members of staff will have access to the policy via the school’s intranet.
• Parents/Carers and the community will be informed of this policy via the newsletter and can access the policy via the school website.

Basis of Discretion:
The Principal has the discretionary option to vary this policy on days with adverse weather conditions and on days when the UV rating is lower than 3.

Support Documents:
Sun Smart Policy Guidelines’ Anti Cancer Foundation of SA

Financial Budget:
Nil

Resources:
SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen made available for staff use.

Ratified by School Board on .................

Review Date 2018