



St Francis of Assisi School, Newton

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Community UV Protection Policy

Introduction:

St Francis of Assisi School is proactive in ensuring that everyone is aware of the importance of UV protection.

Rationale:

This policy has arisen following recommendations from the Cancer Council SA, as a range of strategies to prevent overexposure to ultraviolet rays (UVR). The exposure to UVR over many years is the major cause of skin cancer. Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer when compared to any other country in the world.

The wearing of a hat, or use of an umbrella, is one strategy that is recommended by Cancer Council SA to protect the face, back of the neck and ears to over exposure to UVR. The wearing of sunscreen is another strategy also recommended by the Council as a method of protecting skin from UVR.

Aims:

1. To ensure that students have adequate access to sunscreen and are provided reasonable opportunities to apply sunscreen during school hours.
2. To have children wear the school hat when outside and to ensure appropriate clothing is worn ie. school sport shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves.
3. To have staff use a hat or umbrella when outside.
4. To implement a number of strategies to provide UV protection, appropriate to circumstances, for any staff member engaged in school activities and responsibilities that are outdoors.
5. The community is informed and educated of the need to remain sun-safe.

Implementation:

Aim 1

- Parents are encouraged to apply sunscreen to children before they attend school.
- Teachers will observe students reapply sunscreen before going out to lunch or at other appropriate intervals throughout the day (ie before PE).
- Each class will be provided with its own supply of sunscreen

Aim 2

Cancer Council SA recommends that SA schools implement a comprehensive skin protection policy when the ultraviolet radiation (UVR) levels are 3 and above – this is generally from the beginning of September until the end of April. During May to August in South Australia, skin protection is not necessary for most people as UV radiation levels generally fall below 3. On a normal school day from May to August, where children are outside for relatively short periods of time – i.e. recess and lunch – the chances of skin damage from the sun for most people is low. Therefore....

- Hats are to be worn by students when it is determined that they will be exposed to sunlight for a period of time, during the hours of 10am and 3pm, or when UVR rays are identified as being within the moderate range (or above) on a given day. These guidelines will be implemented regardless of the season (ie year round).
- Teachers will ensure that students who are not wearing a hat are excluded from play in unshaded areas and are restricted to shaded verandahs.
- During recess and lunch breaks, Yard Duty Teachers are responsible for monitoring that children are wearing hats.
- Parents of students who repeatedly fail to wear hats, will be contacted (initially) by the class teacher and in ongoing instances by a member of the leadership team.
- Only the school hat and school t-shirts and shirts are to be worn. The hat may be purchased from the school uniform shop. Hats are to remain clean and free of graffiti and in good condition.

Aim 3-4

- Umbrellas will be provided for staff to utilise during yard duty or other duty or activity requiring them to be outdoors.
- Staff members will be provided with sunscreen in an accessible location (ie staffroom). - Staff are encouraged to implement and model for students a range of UV protection strategies. This might include the use of hats, sunglasses, clothing or lip cream. These strategies remain the responsibility of staff members.
- Where possible employees who undertake activities at times when there is an identified risk will attempt to reschedule the time or place for the activity so as to eliminate the risk or reduce it to an acceptable level.
- The OHSW Committee in consultation with all employees affected will review the activities undertaken outdoors at peak UV times of the day to determine whether the activities can be rescheduled or whether natural or artificial shade can be provided.

Aim 5

- The Principal will ensure that information regarding the dangers of exposure to UV radiation and self screening is displayed prominently in the staffroom and brought to the attention of staff.

For further information regarding sun safety please refer to the Cancer SA website:

<http://www.cancersa.org.au/asp/home.aspx>

updated September 2011 with recommendations from Cancer Council SA