Sun Smart Policy

Rationale

Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world, with skin cancers accounting for around 80% of all new cancers diagnosed each year in Australia.

Stradbroke Schools actively promotes a Sun Smart Policy.

We believe skin protection is a personal responsibility. We encourage all of the members of our school community to use effective skin protection.

Aims

The aims of Stradbroke Schools Skin protection Policy is to promote among children, staff and parents:

- positive attitudes towards skin protection
- every day practices which can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer and related illnesses
- personal responsibility for decision making about skin care
- awareness of strategies to protect our bodies from sun damage

It is the expectation that all staff, students and parents of Stradbroke Schools, inclusive of Out of Schools Hours Care Program will use the following skin protection strategies:

- Take particular care if in the direct sun between the hours of 10am and after 3pm.
- Wherever possible outdoor activities, between 10am - 3pm will be held in shaded areas.
- When the estimated temperature is 38 degrees and over, children are not to play in the open and need to be instructed to stay in the shade.

This means that the oval and asphalt areas are out of bounds for play.

The Resource Centre will be open to children at recess time and the whole of lunchtime with Resource Centre staff, Principals and Deputy Principals sharing duty.

On days of extreme weather conditions, an announcement will be made and children will remain in classrooms with staff sharing supervision in pairs as per the Wet Weather Policy.

- When the predicted maximum is 35 degrees and over, fitness lessons must be held before 10.00 am.

Use the shade of trees, pergolas and the shade of the sail cloth structures when outdoors. Wear appropriate clothing that protects the skin.

Students and staff will be expected to wear an appropriate hat whenever they are involved in outside school activities in terms one and four. At Stradbroke Schools a broad-brimmed, fashion, bucket or legionnaire’s hat that covers face, back of the neck and ears is to be worn. During terms two and three the wearing of hats is a personal responsibility. Children not wearing a hat will be asked to play in the shade.

Children at school will be expected to wear the school uniform that includes a shirt with a collar.

Children at Vacation Care programs will be instructed to wear clothing to protect their skin.
Students will be encouraged to apply a broad-spectrum, water resistant sunscreen with an SPF of 30+ to clean, dry skin. 15-20 minutes before going outdoors for lunch or curriculum activities. Then regularly reapplied (around 2 hourly) if outside for extended periods of time or sooner if involved in water play.

Parents will be asked to supply sunscreen for their children.

Stradbroke School staff will promote, model and reinforce Sun Smart strategies and activities.

Skin cancer prevention will be included in the curriculum at each year level.

Staff will be informed about new information and resources through contact with The Cancer Council South Australia.

Information about the school’s SunSmart Policy will be given to all new staff, students and families.

The Stradbroke Schools Skin Protection policy will be reviewed on a yearly basis with staff, Children’s Learning and Technology’s Working party Students, OSHC and School Council.