



Bertram Primary School Sun Protection Policy



Rationale

Ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun can cause sunburn, skin damage, eye damage, and skin cancer. Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world, with two in three Australians developing some form of skin cancer during their lifetime. Overexposure to the sun during childhood and adolescence is known to be a major cause of skin cancer.

Our sun protection policy has been adopted to ensure that all staff and students attending Bertram Primary School are protected from skin damage caused by UV radiation from the sun. This policy is implemented throughout the year. The sun protection practices outlined in this policy will be applied to all school activities, including sports carnivals, excursions and camps. The policy has been made in consultation with the whole school community.

Our Commitment

Bertram Primary School will:

- Inform parents of this sun protection policy when they enrol their child/children.
- Brief all new staff on the sun protection policy.
- Promote sun protection via newsletters, assemblies, daily messages, whole school activities, and parent and staff meetings.
- Require staff to wear broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hats for all outdoor activities, including yard duty.
- Encourage parents and guests to wear broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket style hats when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.
- Require students to wear broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaire hats when outside.
- Direct students without a broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaire hat to stay in an area that is protected from the sun.
- Require students to wear broad-brimmed or bucket hats, sun protective clothing and sunscreen for all camps, sports and excursions. These items will be listed on the parent permission forms.
- Review the school dress code to include sun protective items such as shirts with collars and longer sleeves.
- Ensure there is adequate provision of shade within the school grounds for students and staff, by planting trees and building shade structures. Particularly in areas where students congregate e.g. lunch, canteen, outdoor lesson areas.
- Encourage staff and students to use shaded or covered areas when outside.
- Ensure that adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and outdoor events.
- Timetable as many outdoor activities as possible - including assemblies, sport and physical education - before 10 am and after 3 pm. When this is not possible activities should be scheduled as far from 12 noon as possible.
- Encourage the use of SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen by:
 - school to provide sunscreen to each learning area.
 - allowing students time to apply sunscreen prior to outdoor activities e.g. prior to school, before lunch, PE lessons, sports, excursions etc.
- Incorporate sun protection and skin cancer awareness programs into the appropriate Key Learning Areas of the school curriculum.
- Review the sun protection policy annually.

Our Expectations

Parents/carers will:

- Ensure your child/children has a broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket/surfie style hat. The Cancer Council WA recommends the following hats:
 - broad-brimmed (7.5 cm brim)
 - legionnaire-style
 - bucket/surfie-style (6 cm brim)
- Ensure that your child/children's clothing provides adequate protection from UV radiation. The Cancer Council WA recommends the following:
 - collars and sleeves
 - closely woven fabric
 - natural fibre
- Ensure that your child/children has access to SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen before leaving for school.
- Act as positive role models by practising SunSmart behaviour.
- Support the school's sun protection policy.

Students will:

- Be aware of the school's sun protection 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 other students in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour.
- Be actively involved in initiatives to protect the school community from over-exposure to the sun.
- Participate in SunSmart education programs.

Evaluation

Bertram staff and Bertram School Council will review the effectiveness of this policy every year.

They will:

1. Review the SunSmart behaviour of students, staff, parents, and visitors and make recommendations for improvement.
2. Assess shade provision and usage and make recommendations for increases in shade provision.
3. Update and promote curriculum material relevant to SunSmart activities.

Ratified by School Board on 7th September 2015.

Review Date: 1st December 2016.