School Policy Statement - Sun Protection

Mount Riverview Public School

Congratulations on your decision to take care of your child's skin by reducing exposure to the sun. We are committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all our students.

Focus of this Policy:

• Student Welfare
• Staff Welfare
• Parents / Visitors / Volunteers
• Occupational Health & Safety

Goals:

• To minimise the risk of skin cancer to all students and staff.
• Increase student and community awareness about skin cancer and sun protection.
• To increase the awareness, within the school community, of the dangers associated with exposure to the sun’s rays.
• Encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV Index levels are 3 and above.
• The school hat is part of the school uniform. All students will wear a hat on all school activities.
• Work towards a safe school environment that provides shade for students, staff and the school community.

Implementation Strategies:

Scheduling Outdoor Activities

Where possible, we will schedule outdoor activities (e.g. assemblies, sport and physical education lessons) outside peak UV times of 10am – 2pm (11am – 3pm daylight saving time) and plan activities to take place in the shade or indoor areas.

Shade

• The school community is committed to providing shade in the school grounds particularly in areas where students congregate e.g. canteen, outdoor lesson areas, and popular play areas.
• The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all other outdoor activities.
• Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
Hats & Clothing

- All students are required to wear a protective hat in the sun whenever they are outside.
- Students who do not wear a hat must remain out of the sun for play periods.
- Shade and shelter areas are provided to meet students’ play needs.
- Staff will be encouraged to act as a role model by practicing Sun Smart behaviour: wearing protective hats and appropriate clothing for all outdoor activities and seeking shade whenever possible.
- The wearing of sun safe clothing that provides protection from the sun is encouraged.
- Parents should assess their own child’s skin type and take greater precautions e.g. long sleeved garments if highly susceptible to direct sunlight, sun screen.

Sunscreen

- SPF 30+ broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen is available for staff and students’ use. Where possible, sunscreen is applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours.
- Where possible, staff will remind children to apply sunscreen before arriving at school, before recess, lunch and going outside.

Role Modelling of Staff

- Staff will be requested to role model good sun protection behaviours by:
  - Wearing sun safe hats, clothing and sunglasses when outside
  - Applying SPF 30+ broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen
  - Seeking shade whenever possible.

Curriculum

- Teachers will be encouraged to include skin cancer prevention principles across all year levels.

Information to the School Community

- Skin cancer prevention information is regularly promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school homepage, parent meetings, staff meetings, school assemblies, and on student enrolment.
- Families and visitors are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures (safe clothing and hats, sunscreen and sunglasses) when participating in and attending outdoor activities.

Sunglasses (optional)

- Students and staff are encouraged to wear close fitting, wrap around sunglasses that cover as much of the eye area as possible and meet the Australian Standard 1067 (Sunglasses: Category 2, 3 or 4).

Evaluation:

- In consultation with teachers, parents and students the sun protection policy will be reviewed for effectiveness (at least once every three years)
- Next policy review is Term 4, 2012.