



Sun Safety Policy

At Oakleigh State School we believe that all members of our school community (students, staff, parents and visitors) have the right to feel safe and valued. A component of this is to be provided with information, structures and planning revolving around Sun Safety.

“Queensland has the highest incidence of skin cancer and melanoma in Australia and the world. Winter sun in Queensland is dangerous enough to cause sunburn and consequently contribute to skin cancer. Over exposure to the sun during childhood contributes to the development of skin cancers in later life. Melanoma can also occur as early as the teenage years.” (Queensland Cancer Fund, p.2)

As “students spend approximately 42 weeks of the year at school and are often exposed to the sun for lengthy periods at times when the UV radiation is at its strongest” (Queensland Cancer Fund, p.2), we have a responsibility to develop and maintain appropriate Sun Safety Strategies so as all members of the school community will gain greater knowledge and awareness of the need to be “Sun Safe”.

Through the development and implementation of a shared Sun Safety Policy in a supportive school environment, we aim to create a positive and proactive attitude to Sun Safety amongst all members of the school community. Ultimately, Sun Safety is a personal choice, we aim to develop life-long strategies and beliefs which will reduce the risks of skin cancer for the total school community.

Sun Safety Strategies

1. Wearing of hats (either wide brimmed or legionnaire style) by all students, staff and volunteer helpers for any outdoor movement or activities where exposure to the sun is imminent and extended.
2. Wearing of collared shirts.
3. Uniform incorporates Sun Safety design features.
4. Flexible planning encouraged to reduce exposure to the sun between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. where ever practical.
5. Utilise a range of educational programs to reinforce and educate students re Sun Safety. E.g. Health and Phys. Ed., Queensland Cancer Council presentation, Sun Smart kits for Preschool and Year One students.
6. Make SPF 15+ broad spectrum sunscreen available for use by students, staff and volunteers.
7. Encourage all school community members to utilise SPF 30+ broad spectrum sunscreens, SPF 30+ lip creams, zinc cream, etc. to all exposed areas of skin.
8. Encourage students to play in shade areas whenever possible.
9. Continue to review and plan play areas for the future to incorporate shaded structures.
10. Reinforce the need for all school community members to be appropriate role models.
11. Permit students to wear appropriate sun glasses to protect their eyes from UV radiation if they wish to or need to. The sunglasses must have a sun protection factor of 97% (EPF 10).
12. Remind students to drink plenty of water as they can dehydrate quickly during hot weather.