



SUN SAFE POLICY

Baringa State Primary School



Our Sun Safety Policy seeks to provide ongoing education that promotes personal responsibility for skin cancer prevention. We aim to provide a safe environment for students, staff and volunteers to learn and work. Through the implementation of sun safety practices, it is our goal that students develop life-long sun safe habits that influence future generations.



RATIONALE

Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Given students are at school during peak ultraviolet radiation times throughout the day, between 10am and 3pm, schools play a major role in both minimising a student's UVR exposure and providing an environment where policies and procedures can positively influence student behaviour.

Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Research shows severe sunburn contributes to skin cancer and other forms of skin damage such as sunspots, blemishes and premature aging. Most skin damage and skin cancer is therefore preventable.

Ultraviolet radiation (UVR) levels are highest during the hours students are at school. As students will spend a portion of their day outdoors, we are committed to protecting them from the harmful effects of the sun.

With that in mind, Baringa State Primary School realises the need to protect students' skin and educate them about Sun Safety behaviour, thus reducing the risk of skin damage from exposure to the sun.

IMPLEMENTATION

Education

- Parents are informed of the Baringa State Primary School's Sun Safety Policy when they enrol their student.
- We encourage our teachers to act as positive role models of Sun Safe behaviour.

Curriculum

- Incorporate sun protection and skin cancer prevention programs into the appropriate key learning areas of the school curriculum. Skin cancer awareness issues can be included in Health, Physical Education, or Science activities.
- Events and activities with a particular Sun Smart focus should be timetabled to coincide with peak UV times.

Uniform/Clothing



- Students are required to wear the Baringa State Primary School's broad-brimmed hat during all breaks unless undercover and for all outdoor activities.
- The students are to wear the correct uniform as outlined in the School Uniform Policy.
- Staff are encouraged to wear broad-brimmed hats or alternatively use a parasol/umbrella for all outdoor activities, including playground duty.
- Free Dress Days will adhere to a Sun Safety clothing policy.

Sunscreen



- Students and staff are actively encouraged to apply SPF50 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen regularly e.g., Prior to school, before lunch, PE lessons, sports carnivals and excursions.
- Sunscreen is easily available in each staffroom for staff and at the administration office or Physical Education staff room for student use.

Sport and Physical Education

- Students are actively encouraged to wear the Baringa State Primary School's broad-brimmed hat for all sport, physical education, events and excursions.
- The Baringa State Primary School's uniform should be worn for outdoor sporting events unless a specified uniform is to be worn.
- For outdoor swimming carnivals and swimming lessons, students must wear a rash vest. The use of sunscreen SPF50 is encouraged and provided for staff, students and volunteers. Hats are required to be worn when not swimming.
- For athletic carnivals and excursions, students are required to wear the school uniform. Hats are required and the use of SPF50 sunscreen encouraged and provided for staff, students and volunteers.

- Where possible, outdoor activities/events will be scheduled to minimise time in direct sun e.g. earlier in the morning or later in the afternoon. The use of indoor and shaded facilities will be considered at other times where possible.
- Physical Education teachers are required to wear a broad brimmed hat.

Camps and Excursions

A risk assessment relating to sun exposure is conducted for the planning of outdoor activities and excursions.

Shade

- The Baringa State Primary School Council ensures shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- Baringa State Primary School ensures shade is available in the school's grounds particularly in areas where students congregate – for example, lunch areas, canteen and outdoor lesson areas. If this is not possible, the school is working towards increasing and/or maintaining shade (built, portable or natural) in the school's grounds.
- Where shade is otherwise not available, temporary shade structures are used for events such as sports carnivals.
- Students and staff are actively encouraged to use shade when outside, particularly if they are not wearing appropriate hat or clothing.



No Hat No Play!