



Sunsafe Procedures at Robertson Public School



Robertson Public School

Department of Education

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Contents

	Page
Rationale	3
Policy statement responsibilities and delegations	3
Skin cancer	3
Audience and applicability	3
Context	4
Hats	4
Uniform	5
Sunscreen	5
Sunglasses	5
Responsibilities and delegations	5
Principal	5
Executive	6
Teachers	6
Students	7
Monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements	7

Rationale

Families, schools and communities share responsibility for the health, safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and young people in their care. The school community, including families, work together to take all reasonable actions to protect students from risks of harm that can be reasonably predicted due to ultraviolet radiation from the sun.

This policy assists to provide a safe environment for students and staff by reducing exposure to ultraviolet radiation and increasing adoption of evidence-based sun safe strategies.

Policy statement responsibilities and delegations

1.1 Skin cancer

Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world with 1 60 000 new cases and 1,200 deaths recorded each year. There are four factors, often occurring simultaneously, which contribute to these statistics:

- The population is predominantly fair-skinned
 - Ultraviolet light from the sun is of sufficient intensity to induce skin cancer in this susceptible population •
- For most of this century social values have supported the belief that a suntan is healthy and attractive
- Lifestyle, work, school and recreational habits expose people to the sun for long periods

1.1.1 Skin damage

Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Much of the damage occurs during childhood and adolescence. Research suggests that severe sunburn is a contributor to skin cancer and other forms of skin damage such as wrinkles, sunspots, blemishes and premature aging. Most skin damage and skin cancer is, therefore preventable.

1.1.2 Schools

Schools have a responsibility to provide a safe environment for students, including providing adequate protection from the sun.

2.1

This policy applies to all staff, students and parents/carers at Robertson Public School.

Context

3.1

This policy is informed by the [Sun Safety for Students guidelines](#)

3.2

This policy is supported by the [Student Health in NSW Public Schools](#)

3.3 Hats

Through the provision of procedures, guidelines and other resources the school is able to provide a sun environment for staff and students.

3.3.1 Skin protection

Robertson Public School will encourage and display positive attitudes towards skin protection. Broad brimmed school hats are the preferred hat as it provides appropriate sun protection for the face, neck and ears.

Include sun safe hats in the school and sports uniform and phase out hat styles that are not sun safe (such as baseball caps) if currently a school or sports uniform option.

3.3.2 Outdoor activities

Sun safe strategies are implemented in peak ultraviolet radiation times for outdoor activities, including physical activity, physical education, carnivals, excursions and sport. This includes scheduling outdoor activities in the shade or outside of peak ultraviolet radiation times where possible.

Health authorities recommend that sun protection is required when the ultraviolet index is 3 or above. The times when the ultraviolet index in NSW is usually below 3 is before 10am Eastern Standard Time or 11am daylight saving time and after 2pm Eastern Standard Time or 3pm daylight saving time and all day during June and July. During these two months the ultraviolet index is likely to be low with the exception of environments at high altitudes or near reflective surfaces like water or snow.

Students are educated and encouraged to wear the broad brimmed school hat when they are outside. This includes for sport, sports carnivals, outdoor excursions and activities.

3.3.3 No hat, stay in the shade

Age and developmentally appropriate sun safe strategies such as 'No hat, stay in the shade' are implemented. During terms 1 and 4, Robertson Public School staff and students play in the shade if they are not wearing a hat.

3.4 Uniform

The school and sports uniforms are effective in minimising exposure to ultraviolet radiation and include a sun safe hat that students are encouraged to wear.

The school uniform is protective with collars and the school hat is appropriate and satisfies the Cancer Council guidelines.

3.4 Sunscreen

The applying of sunscreen everyday is encouraged and promoted and must be at least SPF 30+ broad-spectrum water-resistant.

3.4 Sunglasses

Robertson Public School will encourage the wearing of sunglasses that meet [Australian Standard 1067:2003 Sunglasses and fashion spectacles](#) provide protection to the eyes

Responsibilities and delegations

4.1 Principal

4.1.1 Communication

Where appropriate, the School Plan, school policies, procedures and resources include sun safe strategies and opportunities for collaborative action with students, families and other community members.

Provide information to families and staff on modelling sun safe behaviours

4.1.2 School environment

Monitor the school environment and evaluate any changes that need to be reviewed to reduce the level of exposure of the sun at Robertson Public School.

Shade (natural and/or built) is available in the places where students congregate at recess and lunch and where outdoor teaching takes place.

4.1.3 School environment

Meaningful consultation takes place with the Cancer Council to ensure the efficacy of Sun safe procedures.

Strategies are in place to increase the understanding of staff and other school community members about evidence-based sun safe strategies.

4.2 Executive

4.2.1 Sun smart educational programs

The school curriculum includes intentional teaching about the need for sun safety across year levels.

Monitor and evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of Sun smart educational programs at Robertson Public School, such as the [Cancer Council Sunsmart program](#)

Provide professional learning for staff to raise awareness of, and to support the inclusion of, sun safe principles in teaching programs across the Key Learning Areas

4.2.2 Outdoor learning

Ensure that adequate shade is provided in the playground, sporting carnivals and school authorised events.

Oversee timetables and limit UV exposure by scheduling outdoor activities before 10am and after 2pm wherever possible.

4.3 Teachers

All staff are encouraged to demonstrate sun safe practices including wearing sunscreen and a hat when participating in school activities.

4.3.1 Sun safe education

Teach Sun smart educational programs at Robertson Public School such as the [Cancer Council Sunsmart program](#)

4.3.2 Playground duty

Staff model sun safe behaviours and wear a Cancer Council approved hat while undertaking playground duty in Terms 1 and 4.

4.3.3 Work health and safety

Follow school procedures in relation to work health and safety.

4.4 Students

Families, staff and other school community members support each other in developing and implementing the school's sun safe strategies and these are promoted to students and the wider school community.

4.4.1 Sun safe equipment

Students provide their SPF 30+ (or above) broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen and broad brimmed school hat.

4.4.2 Sun safe practices

Students are encouraged to wear SPF 30+ (or above) broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen and broad brimmed school hat while participating in outdoor school activities, particularly during Terms 1 and 4.

4.4.3 No hat, stay in the shade

Students who do not wear a hat during Terms 1 and 4 stay in the shade.

4.4.4 Sun safe practices

Students are encouraged to demonstrate sun safe practices while at school. Personal responsibility for and decision making about sun safe practices lie with the student.

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements

5.1

The Principal is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the implementation and effectiveness of this policy, and for reviewing this policy as required.