

Introduction:

As Australia has one of the highest incidents of skin cancer in the world, our school community will work towards a safe school environment that provides shade and other sun protective measures for students and staff.

Our school community will address the following areas:

1. Shade

This is the key element to the KICE Sunsmart Policy as effective shade can reduce the harmful Ultra Violet Radiation (UVR) by 75%. We will ensure there are adequate shaded areas around the school grounds to provide safe play opportunities for all students. Shade audits will be conducted every two years to determine if existing shade needs to be better utilised or if additional shade is required. Any additional work required, will become part of the Facilities/Grounds Plan of the school and will be prioritised depending on the level of need.

2. Organisation of outdoor lessons and breaks

Outdoor lessons and activities (e.g. sport, fire drills etc.) need to be scheduled to minimise high –risk periods (between 10am and 3pm) or utilise shaded areas. If this is not possible, indoor venues need to be used or activities re-scheduled. If the daily temperature is expected to be over 36 degrees on Kangaroo Island, the Hot Weather Procedure will be implemented. At KICE, students will play as normal at Break 1 but during Break 2 R-5 students will stay in their classrooms with supervision and the 6-12 students need to stay under the verandas. Excursions and camps will be reviewed by the organising teacher and Head of Campus (or delegate) and may be rescheduled if adequate shade or water cannot be provided.

3. All-day events

If possible these should be scheduled between May and August or during low peak UVR times, but if this is not possible the following needs to be planned for:

- Maximum shade (portable if necessary) to accommodate the shift in shade during the day
- Encourage students to supply their own sunscreen, have it applied before the event and then re-apply during the day
- Broad-brimmed/bucket hats will be compulsory on the day for staff and students and long sleeved clothing will be encouraged when students are not competing if it is a sporting event
- Inform students, parents and staff that sun protection will be a priority and outline expectations and strategies undertaken. Encourage parents/spectators to wear broad brimmed/bucket hats the same as the students are required to wear and bring umbrellas or tents to help supplement shade
- Ensure students have access to plenty of drinking water

4. Curriculum

Through the health program, students will be made aware of the dangers of UVR, how and why they need to protect their skin and have the opportunity to explore related issues (e.g. self-image, peer pressure etc.). Activities related to sun safety may have different objectives depending on the ages and needs of the students. Parents will be informed of the content and objectives of the programs offered.

5. Clothing, hats and sunglasses

The School Dress Code that is compulsory for all students provides excellent protection from the harmful effects of the sun's ultraviolet radiation. This also includes the wearing of a broad-brimmed or bucket hat for all students and staff for outside activities during Term 1 and from Sept 1st. If students wish to wear sunglasses for sun protection they need to conform with the Australian Standard AS1067 that relates to the amount of UVR passing through the lens. They should be a close fitting, wrap-around style.

6. Sunscreen

As sunscreen can provide good sun protection when applied correctly, we will encourage parents to provide this for their child and ask that they instruct their child on how to apply it correctly. Parents will also be encouraged to apply sunscreen to their child before they attend school on days of extreme UVR. This will be done through class parent meetings and newsletter articles.

7. Risk Management for staff

All staff are at risk of sun exposure during yard duty and outdoor events so they must take responsibility to minimise this. Staff are strongly encouraged to wear clothing that protects their skin, follow the requirement of wearing an appropriate hat when outside and be good role models for the students around the issue of sun safety.