

BEAUMARIS PRIMARY SCHOOL SUNSMART POLICY

Rationale:

Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life. Students must therefore be educated as to the need for suitable sun protection, and be protected from over exposure to the sun whilst at school. To that end, sun-smart strategies at Beumaris Primary School will focus on behaviour, curriculum and environment.

Aims:

The SunSmart Policy aims to:-

- ensure all students and staff are protected from over-exposure to UV radiation,
- ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills to help them be responsible for their own sun protection,
- work towards a school environment which provides adequate shade for students and teachers,
- encourage students and teachers to wear protective clothing and hats for outdoor activities and at high risk times.

Implementation:

Behaviour:

The school attempts to affect behaviour by requiring compliance with relevant school rules and by encouraging sun-smart decisions. To that end, the school requires, from 1 September until 30 April:

- students and staff to wear school BPS bucket hats which protect the face, neck and ears whenever they are outside (e.g. recess, lunch, sport, excursions, and camps),
- students without hats to play in the shade cloth area.
- Students apply sunscreen before outdoor activities.

The school encourages, during the same period:

- students to use available areas of shade for outdoor activities,
- students to wear sunglasses and protective clothing (when not at school, for e.g. wearing t-shirts rather than singlet tops on camp and sporting activities)
- students to apply sunscreen before outdoor activities,
- staff to wear appropriate sun-smart clothing,
- staff members and parents (particularly parent helpers) to act as role models by practicing SunSmart behaviours.

To support the above, the school will:

- provide a minimum of SPF30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for staff and student use,
- implement strategies to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen buddies),
- in the case of extreme temp and/or high UV days, consider modifying outdoor activities at the discretion of the principal.

Curriculum:

The school will:

- incorporate programs on SunSmart practices across the curriculum at all year levels,
- regularly reinforce SunSmart behaviour in a positive way through newsletters, parent meetings, assemblies, student and teacher activities.

Environment:

The school will:

- consider the availability of shade when planning all outdoor activities.
- work toward increasing the number of shelters and trees so as to provide adequate shade in the school grounds.
- conducted shade assessment regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.

References:

www.cancervic.org.au

www.sunsmart.com.au