



# Modbury South Primary School

## Preschool ~7

### SunSmart Policy



Modbury South Pre – Year 7 School is currently registered as a SunSmart School and has been accredited by Cancer Council of SA.

The objective of this policy is to implement a comprehensive Sun Protection Plan that actively protects students and staff from dangerous overexposure to UV radiation levels from the sun but also maintains adequate vitamin D levels. The main source of vitamin D is from sunlight and vital for the development and maintenance of strong, healthy bones.

This plan will be reflected through curriculum activities, the behaviour of students, role-modelling by staff, parents and carers and monitoring the environment around the school.

This policy is endorsed so that students (Preschool to Year 7) and staff are protected from harmful ultraviolet (UV) levels when 3 and above. Skin damage caused by harmful UV rays can lead to serious skin cancer (melanoma) in later life. Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world, with skin cancers accounting for around 80% of all new cancers diagnosed each year. At least 1 in every 2 Australians will be diagnosed with skin cancer in their lifetime.

***This SunSmart policy is to be implemented throughout the year.***

***Objectives:*** At Modbury South Pre – Year 7 School we aim to:

- Promote and practise positive attitudes towards practices that ensure skin protection.
- Teach children about lifestyle practices that can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer.
- Encourage children to accept personal responsibility for skin protection.

***As part of the general skin protection strategy, it is compulsory that:***

- All students and staff at Modbury South Pre – Year 7 School will wear a school hat when outside the school.
- Students participating in before and after school activities must wear a hat.
- Students who do not wear a school hat during recess and lunch times will be required to sit in a designated no hat no play area under a verandah.
- Students who do not wear a school hat during sport lessons and/or any outdoor activities, will be required to sit in a shaded area and not participate.
- Staff members will provide positive role modelling regarding sun protection.
- Teachers will use shady areas and indoor venues whenever possible when the UV levels are 3 and above.
- Preschool students without a hat will be encouraged to play under the verandah

***Our school will:***

- Ensure that school hats are appropriate and satisfy *The Cancer Council SA* guidelines (e.g. legionnaires hat, broad brimmed hat or bucket hat). Baseball caps are not acceptable.
- Request that appropriate skin protective clothing is included in the school uniform/dress code. This will include tops with collars and longer sleeves and longer-style skirts, dresses and shorts.
- Ensure that adequate shade is provided when outdoors including sporting and swimming carnivals.
- Encourage the use of SPF 30+, broad spectrum and water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes prior to going outdoors and every 2 hours if staying outside for an extended period.
- Incorporate programs on skin cancer prevention, sun protection and vitamin D in the curriculum.
- Regularly reinforce the SunSmart Policy to children, families and visitors in a positive way through newsletters, parent meetings, assemblies, student and teacher activities.
- Encourage visitors and parents to role model SunSmart Behaviours.
- Hold outdoor activities in areas of shade whenever possible.
- Ensure care is taken during the peak UV radiation times and outdoor activities are scheduled outside of these times where possible. Sports days and other outdoor events to be held during May to August or earlier in the day when the UV is below 3 where practical.
- Relax sun protection practices during May to August, to maintain adequate vitamin D levels. This may include removing hats on days when UV levels are below 3 and at the discretion of staff.

***When enrolling a child, parents will be:***

- Informed of the SunSmart Policy.
- Requested to purchase a school hat and encourage their children to wear it.
- Encouraged to practise skin-protective behaviour themselves.

### ***Policy Review***

- This policy will be reviewed every 3 years to ensure that it meets the most current guidelines of Cancer Council SA.

### **INTERVENTION**

- The school community support a note being sent home to parents/carers of students who repeatedly do not wear a hat to remind them of their responsibility in regard to their child's welfare.
- Disciplinary action will only occur in relation to the non-wearing of hats if a student deliberately fails to comply with the designated shade requirement.
- According to DECS Legal & Risk Management Services, parents/carers who wish their children to be exempt from this policy will need to provide a written authority for their children to be excused from sun protection procedures.

### *DECS - Administrative Instructions & Guidelines*

3.88.3 Exemptions "Students may be granted exemption from the Sun Protection Policy provided that parents/caregivers provide written authority for their children to be excused from sun protection procedures."

*To be presented to Staff and Student Leaders in week 1 term 3 and for ratification to the Governing Council at the next meeting July 2018*