



# O'Connor Cooperative School

## Sunsmart Procedure

### UV protection policy



#### Rationale

The O'Connor Cooperative School is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all students and staff. This document seeks to provide guidelines to minimise the harmful effects of the sun's rays by encouraging students, staff and community members to observe safe, SunSmart behaviours.

#### Policy Statement

- Departmental **Sun (UV) Protection** policy will be promoted
- The ACT Cancer Society's – *SunSmart: Policy Guidelines for Schools to Reduce Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation* provides authoritative advice on this issue
- SunSmart hats and clothing are promoted as part of the school's clothing guidelines
- SunSmart education is part of our Health Education program
- SunSmart practices are incorporated into the school's programs and practices

#### Procedures

##### Communication with families / carers

- The school communicates its sun UV protection guidelines through the school handbook and website.
- The school regularly reinforces SunSmart behaviour in a positive way through the newsletter, parent meetings, classroom education programs and assemblies.
- The SunSmart widget is part of the school's website homepage.
- The school's Facebook page promotes links shared by SunSmart.

##### Sunsafer spaces at school

- Teachers and students should be encouraged to use available shade for outdoor activities.
- Where possible, outdoor activities are scheduled outside the hours of 11am and 3pm (Terms 1 & 4).
- The school provides ample shade in the playground for outdoor activities by maintaining trees, using overhead covers and keeping the gazebo in good repair.
- Parents will be encouraged to apply sunscreen to their child/ren before they arrive at school. If parents wish students to re-apply sunscreen later in the day they can provide a roll-on sunscreen. This sunscreen is to be kept in the child's bag for them to apply later.
- Sunscreen stations are present in all four learning spaces.
- Students are reminded to apply / reapply sunscreen before engaging in outdoor activities.
- Alternate arrangements are made for break times. Staff offer use of the library, the preschool room and other available indoor spaces for eating time / playing time.

##### Sunsafer clothing

- The school advocates that students wear appropriate clothing to cover shoulders, upper arms and midriffs. Tank tops, singlets and tops with thin straps should not be worn. Loose fitting, closely woven cotton fabrics and shirts with collars are recommended. Tops with longer sleeves and long shorts are recommended. Students are encouraged to wear clothing that covers as much skin as possible.
- Staff are required and parents are encouraged to act as positive role models by following all aspects of SunSmart behaviour.

- Relief staff and pre-service teachers are informed of the school's SunSmart practices.
- For outdoor / swimming excursions, t-shirts and rashies are recommended for children. This information is included in excursion permission notes.
- Students and staff are encouraged to wear sunglasses all year round. The use of close fitting wrap-around sunglasses is encouraged.

### **Hats**

- All students receive an O'Connor Cooperative SunSmart bucket hat in their initial enrolment. This hat has a brim of at least 6cm.
- Hats are labelled and remain at school in each student's individual tray.
- Hats are washed and dried at school at the end of each term.
- Students are required to wear a SunSmart hat during outdoor activities whilst at school.
- Teachers monitor the wearing of hats. Parents are informed if their child is regularly without a hat.
- On excursions out of the school, all students are required to wear a school hat.
- Spare hats are available for students to use. These are washed upon use and returned to the spare clothes cupboard.

### **Hats off period**

- A statement about 'Hats off' and 'Hats on' based on current information is communicated with families through the school website and newsletter.
- Beanies are an acceptable alternative to hats on cold winter days in Terms 2 and 3.

### **School based action**

- The school reviews its guidelines at least once every 3 years.
- Staff are encouraged to complete the 'Generation SunSmart' online training course as part of their professional learning.
- Sensible sun UV practices are implemented over June to July when students and staff spend considerable time outdoors.
- Information about the school's SunSmart practices are shared with new and existing staff via the staff handbook at the beginning of each year.