
SUN PROTECTION POLICY

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY

MANAGING INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SAFETY:

SUN PROTECTION POLICY

Policy:

Yarraman Oaks Primary School OSHC will protect children from the dangerous and adverse effects of sun exposure.

Background:

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Research has indicated that young children and babies have sensitive skin that places them at particular risk of sunburn and skin damage. Exposure during the first 15 years of life can greatly increase the risk of developing skin cancer in later life. Early childhood Services play a major role in minimizing a child's UV exposure as children attend at times when UV radiation levels are highest.

Key Resources:

- The Cancer Council www.cancercouncil.com.au
- National Health and Medical Research Council:
- www.nhmrc.gov.au
 - Sun Smart Childcare: A Guide for Service Providers.
 - The Cancer Council VIC 2008

To whom this policy applies:

The policy applies to children, staff, families and visitors attending Yarraman Oaks Primary School OSHC.

When this policy applies:

This policy applies all year round.

Goals:

Our OSHC will follow best practice guidelines to protect children, staff, families and visitors from the damaging effects of sun exposure.
Our OSHC will continue to be a Sun Smart service.

Practices:

Yarraman Oaks Primary School OSHC will:

1. Outdoor Activities

The service will use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV Index levels reach 3 and above.

This will include:

- From October to March sun protection is required at all times
- During Summer terms, 1 and 4, the main Outdoor Activity session will be held under shade or indoors.
- From April to September, outdoor activity can take at any time place during the program.
- Sun protection will be a specific consideration for excursions.
- Timing, sunscreen application/re-application and the use of shade will be considered.
- Parents will be informed of specific sun protection requirements, e.g. hat/ clothing.

Shade

- All activities will be planned to occur in shaded areas. Play activities will be set up in the shade and moved throughout the day to take advantage of shade patterns.
- The service will provide and maintain adequate shade for outdoor activity. Shade options will include a combination of natural and built shade. Priority will be given to areas where children play for extended periods, e.g. sand pit, water play, table activities, climbing equipment.
- The school currently has shade provided by 3 shade sails, trees and a veranda awning around the school.
- As far as possible, staff will encourage and model play in shaded/covered areas with the children while outdoors.

Hats

- Children and educators are required to wear sun safe hats that protect the face, neck, ears and crown of the head for outdoor activities. A sun safe hat is:
 - a legionnaire hat OR
 - a broad brimmed hat with a brim of at least 6 cm (adults 7.5 cm) OR a bucket-style hat with a brim size of at least 5 cm (adults 6cm) and a deep crown
 - Please note: Baseball caps or visors do not provide enough sun protection and therefore are not recommended.
- Parents are required to provide their child with a hat each day.
- Spare hats will be kept for children to wear if parents forget to send in a hat. When worn, these hats should be washed at the end of each day.
- Educators will ensure children are wearing suitable hats when outdoors.
- If a child refuses to wear a hat the child is directed to remain in the shade and issue is discussed with parents.
- Educators will provide their own hats.
- Spare hats will be kept at School for use by staff who have forgotten hat

Clothing

- Children should be in full Yarraman Oaks Primary School uniform.
- Families and visitors will be requested to wear appropriate clothing and hats when involved in service activities.

Sunscreen

- The service will provide SPF 30+, broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for use by staff and children.
- Sunscreen is stored in a cool, dry place and the use by date is monitored.
- Parents will be informed that sunscreen will be applied. Parents are informed of the brand and SPF.
- Permission is sought in the form of parental signature on enrolment. If permission to apply the sunscreen is not granted, parents will be asked to provide sunscreen for their own child.
- If for some reason a child cannot wear sunscreen, s/he will be required to cover up with a long sleeved top with a collar or high neck and long pants and wear an appropriate hat.
- Sunscreen will be applied in a way that avoids cross infection e.g. children taught to apply sunscreen themselves.
- Staff will ensure re-application of sunscreen on the children after 2 hours or when returning outdoors.
- Staff will be expected to apply and reapply sunscreen to themselves before outdoor activities.

2. Role Modelling

Educators will act as role models and demonstrate sun safety behaviour by:

- Wearing a sun safe hat (see Hats)
- Wearing sun safe clothing (see Clothing)
- Applying SPF30+ broad –spectrum water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors
- Using and promoting shade
- Wearing sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard 1067 (optional)

3. Education and Information

- Sun protection will be incorporated regularly into learning programs. Sun protection information will be promoted to all children, staff, families and visitors. Further information is available from the Cancer Council website www.cancercouncil.com.au/sunsmart
- Sun protection will be incorporated in enrolment information, excursion notes and parent newsletters.
- Information may need to be provided in various languages to ensure CALD (culturally and linguistically diverse) parents and carers understand the need for sun protection for all children.

4. Policy Availability

The sun protection policy, updates and requirements (including hat, clothing and sunscreen) will be made available to staff, families and visitors.

5. Evaluation

The OSHC Program demonstrates Sun Smart behaviours with the wearing of suitable clothing and application of sunscreen.

- Sun exposure is limited throughout the day in accordance with Cancer Council recommendations.
- The curriculum and program incorporates sun safety awareness experience.

Sources & Legislative References

-Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: 168
-Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (VIC) Australian Standards for sun protection clothing, sun glasses and shade cloth
-National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care & School Age Care - Elements 2.3.2 Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm or any hazard likely to cause injury & -7.3.5 Service practices are based on effectively documented policies and procedures that are available at the service and reviewed regularly

Reviewed Date: August 2020

Next Review Date: August 2023