QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN’S HEALTH AND SAFETY - MANAGING INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SAFETY

This policy applies to all school and Out of School Hours Care events on and off site.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Glenroy West Primary School Out of Hours Care to minimise the risk of skin and eye damage and skin cancer.

This policy provides guidelines to:

- support staff and students to use a combination of sun protection measures when UV index levels are 3 or above (generally mid-August – end of April)
- ensure that there are outdoor environments that provide adequate shade for students and staff
- ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills to help them to be responsible for their own protection
- support our school’s strategies to meet its duty of care and occupational health and safety obligations to minimise harmful UV exposure and associated harm for students and staff.

POLICY

Excessive exposure to the sun’s ultraviolet (UV) radiation can cause health problems including sunburn, damage to skin and eyes, and an increased risk of skin cancer.

UV radiation:

- cannot be seen or felt
- can be reflected off surfaces such as buildings, asphalt, concrete, water, sand and snow
- can pass through light clouds
- varies in intensity across the year (highest in Victoria from mid-August – end of April)
- peaks during school hours

Sun safety is a shared responsibility and staff, parents and students are encouraged to implement a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV levels reach 3 and above (typically from mid-August to the end of April in Victoria). Information about the daily local sun protection times is available via the free SunSmart app, or at sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au.

Glenroy West Primary School Out of Hours Care has the following measures in place to help reduce the risk of excessive UV sun exposure for staff and students.
Shade

Glenroy West Primary School Out of Hours Care will provide sufficient options for shelter and trees to provide shade on school grounds when students are outside when the UV rating is above 3.

Sun protective uniform/clothing

Glenroy West Primary School Out of Hours Care recommends that from mid-August to end of April, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above, students come to school wearing sun-protective clothing such as:

- loose, cool, closely-woven fabric
- shirts with a collar and/or high necklines
- tops with elbow length or long sleeves
- longer style shorts and skirts

Glenroy West Primary School Out of Hours Care From mid-August (exact date to be set by the school annually) to 30 April, all students must wear a sun protective hat that shades the face, neck and ears for all outdoor activities. Hats may also be worn for all outdoor activities outside of the August to April time period, by parent or student choice.

Students are required to wear a school hat or another hat style that protects the face, neck and ears when outdoors, for example broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket. Students who are not wearing appropriate protective clothing or a hat may be asked to play in the shade or in a suitable area protected from the sun.

Sunscreen

Glenroy West Primary School Out of Hours Care encourages all staff and students to apply SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen daily whenever UV levels reach 3 and above. Sunscreen should be applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors, and reapplied every two hours according to manufacturer’s instructions.

Staff and families should role model SunSmart behaviour and are encouraged to apply SPF 30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen when outside.

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review process.

This policy was reviewed on 25/06/2019

The policy will be next reviewed in 2022

Prepared for GWPS in accordance with Regulation 168 - ‘Education & Care Services National Regulations’

ACECQA- Australia Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority

References: Education and Care Services National Regulations 155 & 156

Links to National Quality Standard:

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

Other relevant documents / links


DEECD Health, Safety & Workcover

Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF)

Email: sunsmart@cancervic.org.au Ph: 9514 5419 Web: sunsmart.com.au