



Errington Special Education Centre R-12

Sun protection and Hot Weather Policy

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SUN PROTECTION POLICY

Our school uses a combination of sun protection measures during terms 1, 3 and 4 and when UV levels are 3 and above at other times. Staff are encouraged to access the daily sun protection times for our location during term 2 (particularly May) to determine if sun protection is necessary.

All children R-12 are encouraged to wear an approved hat when outside, regardless of the weather - except when UV levels are below 3. This includes lunches, and any lessons held outside and excursions.

Implementation

- Students are to wear sun protective clothing including tops with collars and elbow length sleeves.
- Students are to wear a broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaire style hat for all outdoor activities.
- Students without an approved hat are encouraged to play in an area protected from the sun or return indoors.
- Provide SPF 50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for staff and child use. (Parents to inform school of any allergy and provide school with their child's personal SPF clearly labelled with their name.
- Students are encouraged to apply sunscreen before going outdoors for lunch.
- Students are encouraged and reminded to use available areas of shade when outdoors.
- Sun protection is incorporated in the learning program where appropriate.

Staff WHS and role modelling

- As part of WHS UV risk controls and role modelling, when the UV is 3 and above staff are to:
 - wear sun protective hats, clothing and sunglasses when outside
 - apply SPF 50+ higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen
 - seek shade whenever possible.

Families are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures when attending or participating in outdoor school activities.

HOT WEATHER POLICY

On days forecast by the Weather Bureau (BOM) as 36°C or more, the hot weather policy applies.

In exceptional circumstances, and on days of extreme heat (36 degrees or above) or in the event of an extreme heatwave declared by the State Emergency Service (SES), students may need to be dismissed early, subject to principals decision and parent consent. Staff remain on duty on days of early dismissal.

All staff will exercise duty of care when taking students out for outdoor activities during hot weather to ensure that students do not overheat and that sun exposure is kept to a minimum. Staff are advised to minimise outdoor activities between the hours of 11.00am and 3.00pm.

Parents are reminded to ensure children wear cool clothing and bring their water bottles daily.

It is parent's discretion to keep students home on days of extreme heat.

Lunch time

- For temperatures less than **36°C**, students are permitted to play as usual and are encouraged to play in the shade and drink plenty of fluids.
- For temperatures over **36°C**, leadership will determine if a shortened lunch time will take place or an inside lunch time. For a shortened lunch time - Students go out to play for 15 minutes and are encouraged to play in the shade and reminded to drink plenty of fluids.
- It is parent's responsibility to notify their child's class teacher if hot weather exasperates medical conditions, e.g. seizures.

Implementation

In the case of extreme hot weather, as forecast at 7:30am we will:

- Activate air-conditioners in the morning (set to 20-22 C).
 - Avoid outside play to shaded areas and as the temperatures rise encourage inside play.
 - Provide drinking water for children to access throughout the day.
 - Offer children opportunities to drink water or fluids regularly.
 - Encourage families to dress children in clothing that minimises heat gain,
 - Encourage families to pack lunches in insulated containers with an ice pack
- Lunch boxes and drink bottles remain refrigerated.

The school's role is to:

- To provide a comfortable and safe environment for all children.
- Ensure heating/cooling equipment are provided and maintained to ensure a comfortable temperature for children.
- Follow the Skin Protection Policy and advice from the Cancer Council.
- Check all surfaces outdoors before play to ensure children are not at risk of burn injuries.

Site manager and staff along with Governing Council will review the effectiveness of the Errington Special Education Centre Sun Protection Policy at least every three years and revise the policy when required. To maintain SunSmart recognition the sun protection policy should be submitted to the Cancer Council SA for review every three years.