

IONA PUBLIC SCHOOL

SUN PROTECTION POLICY

Policy reviewed June 2009

This policy is for implementation throughout the year with emphasis in Terms 1 and 4. The purpose of the policy is to ensure that all children attending our school are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun and gain an understanding of good health practices.

1. As part of our general skin-protection strategies:

- 1.1 Children will wear school uniforms and school hats, or hats that satisfy Cancer Council Guidelines which protect the face, neck, and ears whenever they are outside.
e.g. recess, lunchtime, sport, sports carnivals, outdoor excursions and activities.
- 1.2 Children who do not have their hats with them will play in an area protected from the sun.
e.g. shade areas, rooms, lunch shed, COLA. **No hat, play in the shade**
- 1.3 Children will be encouraged to use the 30+ sunscreen provided by the school
- 1.4 Children will be encouraged to use available areas of shade for outdoor play activities.
- 1.5 Outdoor activities will be held in areas of shade whenever possible.
- 1.6 Teachers will schedule outdoor activities before 10am and after 2pm (11am and 3pm daylight saving time whenever possible.
- 1.7 Staff will be encouraged to act as role models by adhering to these guidelines.
 - wearing protective hats and appropriate clothing for all outdoor activities
 - using SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for skin protection
 - seeking shade whenever possible

2. Our school will:

- 2.1 Ensure the school hats satisfy Cancer Council guidelines. (UPF 50+, slouch hat)
- 2.2 Ensure only school uniforms which are designed to provide maximum sun protection, are chosen as our school uniform. (girls' uniform, sports shorts and shirts – UPF 50+)
- 2.3 Ensure that adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and outdoor events.
- 2.4 Provide more shelters and shade trees where possible.
- 2.5 Provide SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for staff and student use, whenever possible.
- 2.6 Incorporate programs on skin cancer prevention in its curriculum.
- 2.7 Reinforce regularly this Policy in a positive way through Newsletters, parent meetings, student and teacher activities.
- 2.8 Introduce the compulsory wearing of rash shirts for swimming in terms 1 and 4, and at swimming carnivals. **No rash shirt, no swimming**
- 2.9 Purchase rash shirts with the school logo for use at all swimming events.

- 2.10 Promote regular skin cancer prevention through newsletters, the school website, parent meetings, school assemblies and on student enrolment.
- 2.11 Encourage students and staff to wear close fitting sunglasses when participating in and attending outdoor activities (where practicable)

3. When enrolling a child at our school, parents will be:

- 3.1 Informed of this policy.
- 3.2 Requested to purchase a school hat or provide an appropriate hat for their child's use.
- 3.3 Provided with information on our supplier of our uniforms.
- 3.4 Encouraged to provide SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for their child's use.
- 3.5 Encouraged to practise skin – protective behaviour themselves.

4. As a result of the School's Sun Protection Policy:

- 4.1 Students will understand why sun protection is important and will take effective action to protect themselves.
- 4.2 Parents, staff and other school community members will support each other in developing and implementing the School's Sun Protection Plan throughout the year.