Policy Statement

SUN SMART POLICY

Aim

The aims of the St Martins Sun Smart Policy are to promote among children, staff and parents:

- positive attitudes towards skin protection
- Lifestyle practices which can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer and the number or related deaths
- Personal responsibility for the decision making about skin protection
- Awareness of the need for environmental changes in our school to reduce the level of exposure to the sun

Rationale

St Martins has in place a NO HAT NO PLAY policy for term 1 and 4 of the school year. This policy was put in place to protect students and staff from the harmful effects of the sun on the skin over extended periods of time, particularly between 1st September and 30th April. Research has shown that Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world, with skin cancer accounting for around 80% of all diagnosed cancers each year.

Like other schools, St Martins is ideally placed to help reduce the incidence of skin cancer and the number of related deaths by encouraging all members of the school community to use effective skin protection. St Martins is an approved Sun Smart School through the Cancer Council SA.

Implementation

1. NO HAT NO PLAY POLICY during terms 1 and 4 with special consideration to the power of the sun from 1st September up until the 30th April. Students are asked to wear hats and/or skin protection for high UV days outside of term 1 and 4 particularly with major outdoor events such as walks, cross country running or outdoor excursions.

2. It is an expectation that all staff, students and volunteer parents will use the following skin protection strategies:

   2.1 Take particular care if in direct sunlight between the hours of 10am and 3pm

   2.2 Whenever possible, all outdoor activities will be scheduled before 10 am and after 3pm, conducted indoors, or in the shade areas of the school.
3. Use the shade of trees, pergolas and gazebos whenever outdoors.
   3.1 Portable gazebos be erected for all extended activities outdoors between
       1st September and 30th April or on high UV days outside these months.
   2.2 The playground to be a priority for shade structure planning
   2.3 Maintain shade trees and plant for replacement

4. Wear appropriate clothing that protects the skin.
   4.1 Students, staff and volunteer parents will be expected to wear a broad
       brimmed hat, legionnaire style hat, or bucket hat with a deep crown and a
       brim width of 6cms whenever they are involved in outside activities.
       Children not wearing an appropriate hat will be expected to play in the
       shade.
   4.2 Students will be encouraged to wear shirts with collars and at least elbow
       length sleeves, and longer style shorts/skirts.
   4.3 Students who regularly neglect to wear their hat will miss play and the
       matter will be addressed with parents

5. Students will be encouraged to apply a broad-spectrum, water resistant sunscreen
   with an SPF30+ to clean, dry skin, when on camps and excursions where shade
   and activities are unpredictable.
   5.1 Adequate time must be allowed for students to apply sunscreen.
   5.2 Parents will be encouraged to supply sunscreen for their children, although
       there may be bulk sunscreen packs available in all classrooms or for
       special outdoor events.

6. Reinforcing the SunSmart message in all school activities and in general school
   procedures is an important strategy in the reinforcement of the skin protection
   behaviours.
   6.1 Staff will be encouraged to role model the appropriate SunSmart strategies
       in all school activities
   6.2 Skin cancer prevention will be included in the curriculum at most year
       levels.
   6.3 Staff will be encouraged to keep up to date with new information and
       resources through contact with The Cancer Council South Australia’s
       Resource Centre.

7. School Services such as After School Care and Holiday Care will implement the
   Skin Protection Policy of the College.
   7.1 Students attending After School Care/Holiday Care will be required to
       have a hat for outdoor activities.

8. The St Martins Sun Smart Policy will be reviewed on a bi annual basis and shared
   with staff and SRC.
Definitions

Sun Smart School: A school promoting sun safe practices through curriculum and policy through the Cancer Council SA.

References
2. St Martins Extreme Weather Policy

Review Date and Specifications
To be reviewed September 2014 on a bi annual cycle.

Review of the policy using the current reference material and information from Cancer Council SA