



Swallowcliffe P-7

We value **Honesty, Respect, Achievement**

SWALLOWCLIFFE PRESCHOOL Hot Weather/SunSmart Policy

Rationale:

- Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world, with skin cancers accounting for around 80% of all new cancers diagnosed each year in Australia.
- Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Much of the damage occurs during childhood and adolescence. Research suggests that severe sunburn is a contributor to skin cancer and other forms of skin damage such as wrinkles, sunspots, blemishes and premature ageing. Most skin damage and skin cancer is, therefore, preventable.
- As a staff we are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all children.

Building Design:

The Swallowcliffe Preschool building is of solid construction with open space design. Each space is air-conditioned by split systems. The building accommodates up to 45 children at any given time.

A hard cover pergola extends one length of the outdoor area and a hard cover shaded area is over the sandpit to protect children from the sun during outdoor learning activities.

Aim:

The aims of the Swallowcliffe Preschool Hot Weather/SunSmart Policy are to promote among children, staff and parents, a positive attitude towards skin protection, and to provide lifestyle practices that reduce the incidence of skin cancers. Our aim is to ensure that all members of our preschool are protected from sun damage caused by harmful rays of the sun.

Implementation of Hot Weather Policy:

When the forecast temperature is 34 degrees (site decision) or above on any single day the following procedure will be actioned:

- Children will go out for morning play only in restricted play shaded areas, i.e. sandpit and under the veranda, until the temperature reaches 36 degrees. Once the temperature reaches 36 degrees, all staff and children will remain indoors. Staff will track this via a mobile weather app.
- Booked excursions for the day will need to seek direct approval from the School Principal before proceeding with the excursion.
- The Preschool will switch off lights where possible, to keep the room as cool as possible.
- Children will be encouraged to have regular drink breaks.
- Children may use spray bottles under supervision of the teacher.
- The learning program will be maintained, with modified learning program implemented after once the temperature reaches 36 degrees.

Our Mission: To empower students to recognise and optimise their full learning potential.



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

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- Early dismissal will not be endorsed. Families who wish to pick up their children early from the Preschool, will need to sign out their child as per normal.
- Parents are encouraged to dress children in clothing that minimises heat and are encouraged to pack food in insulated containers with a freezer block, and label food items for the fridge.

Implementation of SunSmart policy:

The policy is for implementation for the Preschool year and for specified Preschool events. It is expected that all staff, children and parents of Swallowcliffe Preschool use the following strategies:

1. Parents are advised to dress children in appropriate sun protective clothing – i.e. dresses with sleeves. If children are not wearing the correct clothing, staff will supply children with a t-shirt to put over their clothes. Staff and children are expected to wear a broad brimmed, legionnaire or bucket style hats outdoors all year round to align with the school. Broad brimmed hats are available for purchase at the school (broad brimmed hats are a requirement once children are in Reception). Children not wearing an appropriate hat will be expected to play indoors or under shelter.
2. The UV rating will be checked daily. If the UV rating is 3 and above, all children and staff must apply sunscreen unless parent/caregiver consent is not given.
3. Parents are expected to apply broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 30+ to clean, dry skin before children come to their preschool session. If children are at the preschool for longer than 3 hours staff will provide sunscreen throughout the daily routine every 3 hours or until required as per the UV rating.
4. Reinforcing the SunSmart message in all preschool activities and curriculum. Staff will be expected to role model SunSmart behaviours in all outdoor activities.
5. Skin protection will be incorporated into enrolment information, excursion notes and school/preschool newsletters.
6. When eating outside, seating will be provided in shaded areas.

Promotion:

The policy will be promoted by:

- Families being informed via the newsletter, skoolbag app and other correspondence.
- New families to the preschool being informed via enrolment meetings.
- Staff being informed and provided with training opportunities.
- Children being informed via teachers

Endorsed by Governing Council

Reviewed May 2017

SunSmart and Hot weather policy combined: 6/8/2019

Endorsed by Governing Council: August 2019

Reviewed:

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