



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:

Swallowcliffe Preschool building is of solid construction and 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. Additional shading is available over the play ground, swing and climbing equipment.

Aim:

The aims of the Swallowcliffe School 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.

Swallowcliffe Preschool 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 lunchtime.

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

1. The UV rating will be checked daily. If the UV rating is 3 and above, all children and staff must wear a hat outdoors.
2. 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 whenever outside for each term. 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.
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. Staff will support children to reapply sunscreen every 2 hours when the UV is 3 or over.
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. Children will be supported to apply sunscreen 20 minutes before going in the sun to provide adequate time for the sunscreen to soak in prior to sun exposure.
7. When eating outside, seating will be provided in shaded areas.

Promotion:

The policy will be promoted by:

- Families being informed via the newsletter and other correspondence.
- New families to the preschool being informed via the Enrolment Information package.
- Staff being informed and provided with training opportunities.
- Children being informed via teachers

Endorsed by Governing Council

SunSmart and Hot weather policy combined, August 2019

Reviewed August 2022

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