



Atlantis Beach Baptist College

Sun Safety Policy

Title of Policy/Procedure	Sun Safety Policy
Endorsed by	Principal
Creation date	September 2015
Next review date	September 2019
To whom issued	College Staff and Community

Protection from Over Exposure to the Sun

Introduction

Australia has amongst the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. It is estimated that more than 75% of all skin cancers could be prevented by practicing sun protection in early childhood and adolescence.

“Schools and teachers owe to the students under their control and supervision a responsibility to take reasonable care for the safety of these students. Reasonable care, or duty of care, means that schools and teachers must respond to all elements of foreseeable risk and take reasonable steps to ensure that a student does not risk injury and that the health of the student is not put at risk”.

Policy

Students and staff who are involved in a range of outdoor activities at Atlantis Beach Baptist College may risk over exposure to the sun. Teachers should adhere to the following guidelines in order to protect students and themselves from over exposure to the sun.

Daily temperature and UV rating

1. The Principals and Health and Physical Education staff will monitor the temperature and UV index daily during Term 1 & 4 with the use of Bureau of Meteorology website www.bom.gov.au
2. The Principals and Health and Physical Education staff (or their delegate if either is absent) should monitor the predicted temperature and UV from the Bureau of Meteorology website.

Protection from over exposure to heat during activities on the College oval and Basketball courts and during recess and lunch breaks.

1. When the temperature reaches 40 degrees, or can reasonably be predicted to reach 40 degrees:
 - a. the oval and courts will be closed and all outdoor classes relocated indoors or to an appropriate location that provides adequate shade and cooler conditions.
 - b. the class teacher must inform the Principal and Office of the relocation of a class.
 - c. the Principal will liaise with the Office staff for the closure of the oval during recess and lunch. Teachers will be informed by the Office staff.
 - d. Students in the High School will be given access to the College internal areas such as the Library, shade shelter and foyer at recess and lunchtime. Duty teachers will supervise these internal areas.
 - e. Students in the Primary School will be kept in their classroom and supervised by a syndicate teacher.
 - f. the Principal will inform the duty teachers.
 - g. staff will move students who are standing, sitting or playing in un-shaded areas to the College shaded areas or to their classrooms in the case of Primary students.

2. When the temperature is between 35 and 38 degrees:
 - a. the teachers will use their discretion and modify the class activities, the length of the lesson and/or the location of the lesson.
 - b. the Principal and Office must be informed of the relocation of any class.

Protection from over exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation

1. Where possible, outdoor lessons and sports carnivals should be scheduled outside of peak UV times when the UV is above 8 (or as far from solar noon as possible).
2. Students and staff must wear a hat while engaged in all outdoor activities unless medical certificate is obtained by parent.
3. Sunscreen must be provided; however, students are encouraged to bring their own and have it with them at every outdoor activity. Sunscreen will be SPF30 or higher.
4. Primary students must wear the College broad brimmed hat. These are available for purchase from the College Uniform shop.
5. Students are not permitted to participate in outdoor activities without a hat during outdoor activities every term. At all times the wearing of a hat is actively promoted.
6. Students participating in extended outdoor excursions and other activities, such as sporting carnivals, must wear a hat.
7. Duty teachers must wear a hat, preferably a broad brimmed hat, while on yard duty.
8. Parents involved in outdoor activities should be asked, by the staff member in charge of the activity, to model sun safe behaviour and to wear a hat.
9. Staff in charge of organising the Inter House swimming, cross country and athletics carnivals should inform parents in writing of their obligation to model sun safe behaviours.
10. Student Councillors / captains and others required to perform official duties on behalf of the College at outdoor venues will be required to wear their College hat. This may include attendance at award ceremonies.

Protection from over exposure to the sun during camps, excursions and tours

1. Clothing must cover the shoulders and midriff. Tops/shirts with collars are preferable
2. All students must wear a hat (not a visor) during all outdoor activities. Hats with a broad brim are recommended as they offer increased protection.
3. Sunscreen will be available, however, students are encouraged to bring their own and have it with them at every outdoor activity.
4. Sunscreen must be SPF30+ broad-spectrum and students must be encouraged to apply it regularly.
5. Sun-baking is not allowed under any circumstances.

Students who do not comply with these sun safe requirements will not be permitted to participate in outdoor activities unless they are in a shaded area.

Protection from over exposure to the sun during water based activities

In addition to camps, tours and excursions the following applies to College and Inter School swimming carnivals and other Inter School competitions and off campus class activities.

1. During outdoor water activities, a rash vest or wet suit is recommended.
2. If a rash vest or wet suit is not worn, a tee shirt (not loose fitting) is recommended to be worn over bathers.
3. Out of the water, bathers must be covered at all times by clothing that covers the shoulders and midriff. Tops/shirts with collars are preferable.
4. When the specific rules of a competition prevent a student from wearing a rash vest, wet suit or tee shirt, teachers encourage the student to cover their bathers as soon as possible after the event.
5. All students must wear a sun-protective hat (not a cap or visor). Hats with a broad brim are recommended as they offer increased protection.
6. Sunscreen will be provided; however, students are encouraged to bring their own and have it with them at every outdoor activity.
7. Sunscreen must be SPF30+ broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen and students must be encouraged to apply it regularly.
8. Sun-baking is not allowed under any circumstances.

Students who do not comply with these sun safe requirements will not be permitted to participate in water based activities.

Drinking water

Students are permitted to carry water bottles into all classes, except when computers are located in the room. Teachers are to encourage students to drink water regularly through the day, in particular before, during and after physical activity.

Shade

The Principal will regularly assess the College grounds in relation to the availability and use of shade.

Protection from over exposure to the sun of staff whose duties require that they are regularly outdoors

Physical Education staff, Grounds staff and others whose duties require them to work outdoors for extended periods of time are required to take appropriate sun protection measures, as they are particularly at risk from UV radiation all year round. Staff should regularly use sunscreen and wear a hat, preferably a broad brimmed hat. The modelling of sun safe behaviour to students is essential, in addition to taking adequate measures to protect themselves from over exposure to the sun.

Sunglasses should be worn by all staff and students who are exposed to the sun for long periods of time, such as all day teaching PE, or on Outdoor education camps, or at the beach.

Promotion of sun safe behaviour

1. The Principal will promote sun protection throughout the year via newsletters, student notices and staff and parent meetings.
2. The College staff will promote sun safe behaviour in the assemblies.
3. The Protection from Over Exposure to the Sun policy will be made available to staff via the Staff Policy Handbook. Staff are required to be conversant with the contents of the policy.
4. Staff are requested to act as role models by practicing Sun Smart behaviours.
5. Sun Safe practices are imbedded within the Health Education Program. Students may study the effects of skin cancer within the context of lifestyle diseases.
6. A review of the policy will be conducted by the Health and Physical Education Team and the Principals once every year.