



UNITY COLLEGE

SUN PROTECTION POLICY – WHOLE SCHOOL

AIM

Unity College sun protection policy has been developed to protect all children, staff and facilitators from the harmful effects of ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun.

SCHOOL POLICY: SUN PROTECTION

Parents / Guardians / Facilitators of children at Unity College are responsible for ensuring that sun protection is provided for them whilst they are on the school premises during school hours or whilst they are taking part in school activities or extra-murals. There is a shared responsibility between the school and parents/guardians that the latter must acknowledge and accept. This policy refers specifically to students. However, staff members are also encouraged, for their own protection, to follow this policy and guidelines developed by the school. Staff, in providing for their own protection, is also providing a positive role model for students. Through the school's curriculum, students should be made aware of the damaging effects of ultraviolet radiation caused by exposure to the sun, and the need to protect their skin from high levels of radiation.

2. Rationale

Research has indicated that young children and babies have sensitive skin that places them at particular risk of sunburn and skin damage. Exposure during the first fifteen years of life can greatly increase the risk of developing skin cancer in later life. Ultraviolet radiation from the sun causes a number of short-term (acute) and long term (chronic) effects. Short term effects include sunburn and tanning. Sunburn occurs when skin blood vessels expand and leak fluid, causing inflammation, pain and redness. Sunburn symptoms can continue to develop from 24 to 72 hours after ultraviolet radiation exposure. Tanning occurs when skin cells produce a pigment called melanin in response to ultraviolet radiation exposure. Sunburn and tanning during childhood and adolescence both increase the risk of melanoma skin cancer in later life.

This policy aims to protect students, as far as reasonably practicable, from the dangers of over exposure to the sun:

3. Procedures, Protective Clothing and Wearing of Sunscreen

- 3.1 Parents / guardians are informed of the school's sun protection policy and a full copy of the school's sun protection policy is available and given to parents / guardians (parent file information).
- 3.2 Before students go outside to attend the extra mural activities, staff members must encourage them to wear sun hats (e.g. white, navy blue broad-brimmed or white, navy blue caps or sunhats) that cover the face and ears and / or encourage students to apply sunscreen. Parents are requested to help us encourage their child with the wearing of a hat.
- 3.3 Learners are encouraged to play in the shade.
- 3.4 Staff should exercise judgement as to whether some students, for example, juniors and lower intermediates, should be reminded and supervised when applying sunscreen.
- 3.5 Teachers may not be able to assist every child to apply sunscreen and parents / guardians are made aware of this.
- 3.6 At the beginning of the school year, parents / guardians and facilitators are informed that there may be occasions when teachers will need to apply sunscreen to children. Parents / guardians / facilitators should be requested to inform the school if they do not wish teachers to apply sunscreen to their children.
- 3.7 If a child is allergic to sunscreen, parents / guardians must notify the school about this on the medical form completed at the beginning of each school year. The school requests that parents / guardians supply one bottle of the necessary sunscreen prior to expiration date with the child's first and last name labelled on the bottle. Parents / guardians will be informed when a new bottle is needed. The sunscreen bottle should be placed in the child's school bag or sports kit bag.
- 3.8 For sporting events, such as our annual sports day, it is the parents responsibility to see their child arrives with sun block. During the course of the programme, there will be a 5 minute break in order that the parent may re-apply sunscreen to their child.