

SunSafe Policy and Guidelines



Overview

Kamaroi is committed to providing a safe working environment for all our students, workers and visitors.

Policy

It is the policy of Kamaroi Rudolf Steiner School to implement sun protection wherever possible.

- Encourage the entire Kamaroi Community to use a combination of sun protection measures.
- Work towards a safe school environment that provides shade for students, staff and the Kamaroi community
- Assist students to be responsible for their own sun protection
- Ensure that families and new staff are informed of this policy
- Support Student duty of care requirements
- Support appropriate workplace safety strategies to minimize UV risk and associated harms for staff and visitors.

Sun Protection Strategies

Kamaroi has developed the following sun protection strategies:

General

- All students and staff use a combination of sun protection measures throughout the day whenever UV levels are three or above to ensure they are well protected at the appropriate times.
- Kamaroi makes sure there is sufficient shelter and trees providing shade in the school grounds particularly in areas where students congregate (e.g. lunch areas, canteen, outdoor lesson areas and popular play areas).
- Shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- Playgrounds should be designed with areas of effective summer shade from either trees or built elements, or both. Playgrounds which comply with Australian Standard AS 4685.0:2017, Playground equipment and surfacing - Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation, are encouraged but optional.

Shade

- The availability of shade is noted when planning excursions and outdoor activities.
- Students are actively encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside. Students who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing are asked to stay in an area protected from the sun.
- Kamaroi makes sure there is sufficient shelter and trees providing shade in the school grounds particularly in areas where students congregate (e.g. lunch areas, canteen, outdoor lesson areas and popular play areas). The school has a covered Breezeway which provides protection from the sun so the community can enjoy various activities.
- Every classroom, the library, portable and Administration building have the bonus of a covered verandah. This enables children and staff to have meals under shade.
- Natural Shade Provision - The play area has a large number of trees which provide shade.
- Shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.

Hats

- Students are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears whenever they are outside between the months of August to May as per the NSW Cancer Councils recommendations.
- Recommended sun-safe hats include legionnaire, broad-brimmed and bucket hats. Baseball caps do not offer enough protection and are not recommended.
- Students who do not have an appropriate sun protective hat between the months of August to July will be asked to stay in shaded areas only.

Sunscreen

- Parents/carers are responsible for providing students with their own SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen to be used while at school or participating in school activities.
- On camps and school excursions Sunscreen is applied in accordance with the manufacturer's directions, and at least 20 minutes before going outdoors. Sunscreen should be reapplied at least every two hours, and more frequently when participating in sport, sweating or swimming, and after towel drying.
- Time will be allocated for sunscreen application prior to outdoor activities on camps and excursions.
- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen buddies).

Role Modeling

- Staff act as role models by using a combination of sun protection measures as outlined above when the UV level is 3 or above.
- Families and visitors are also encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures (sun protective clothing and hats, sunglasses and sunscreen) when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.

Curriculum

- Students are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole school community.
- Sun safe behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, Kamaroi public website, parent meetings, staff meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and on student enrolment.

Dress Code

- Sun protective clothing is encouraged as outlined in the Kamaroi dress code. This includes clothing with:
- Sun-safe clothes with sleeves that cover shoulders, back and midriff
- A legionnaire or broad-brimmed hat. Caps of any sort are not to be worn. We have a policy of "no hat – no play".
- Shoes need to be worn at all times. Clothes made of natural fibers are recommended and encouraged.
- Other appropriate sun protective clothing e.g. rash vests during swimming excursions etc.

Scheduling and Planning

- Sun protection is noted when planning all outdoor events (e.g. assemblies, camps, excursions and sporting events).

Implementation

- This policy is implemented through a combination of:
- staff and student training and awareness of issues relating to skin and safe sun exposure
- implementation of sun protection measures
- effective notification procedures
- effective communication procedures
- effective record keeping procedures
- initiation of corrective actions where necessary

For further Information on our Student Support Policy and Guidelines, please contact the School Office.