



## **BERRI PRIMARY SCHOOL UV RADIATION & WEATHER POLICY**

### **RATIONALE**

- 1) Students need to be supported by staff to assist and ensure appropriate protection from
  - a) Excessive exposure to the sun's UV rays.
  - b) Extremes of temperature and weather conditions in hot or wet weather
- 2) Students and staff have a right to be protected from the sun/ rain when on the school grounds.
- 3) Students need to be encouraged and given the opportunity to take responsibility for their own safety and health by wearing hats, wearing sunscreen, wearing protective clothing, drinking water and staying indoors during hot and/ or wet weather.

### **ULTRAVIOLET (UV) RADIATION PROCEDURES**

A combination of sun protection procedures are to be used **during terms 1, 3 and 4**, as outlined below. When the UV is **below 3 in term 2**, sun protection is not necessary for vitamin D. Depending on school activities, i.e. all day outdoor activities, staff and students are encouraged to check the UV in May and implement sun protection when the UV is 3 and above. Staff and students are encouraged to check the UV daily via [www.bom.gov.au/sa/uv](http://www.bom.gov.au/sa/uv) or the SunSmart app to assist with the implementation of this policy.

- 1) Wide brimmed or legionnaire hats will be expected to be worn during Terms 1, 3 and 4 when outdoors, after 8.55am
- 2) Teachers will regularly discuss and reinforce responsible behaviour and self-protection from the effects of the sun as part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum and through regular classroom discussions, assemblies and regular school and classroom newsletters.
- 3) Sun protective clothing is to be worn by both students and teachers - eg. Broad brimmed or legionnaire hats, shirts with collars and longer style sleeves that cover shoulders, longer style shorts/ skirts, acceptable footwear; no thongs, heels, uggboots etc. No hat, in terms 1, 3 and 4, or unacceptable clothing or footwear means that students must go to the Library during Lunch and to the Pavilion area during Recess.
- 4) SPF 30 or higher, broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen is available in all classrooms and students are actively encouraged to apply 20 mins before outdoor activities and reapply every 2 hours.
- 5) Teachers are encouraged to remain indoors with students when teaching during peak UV periods where possible, or conduct outdoor activities in shaded areas.
- 6) Parents will be encouraged to wear hats when on school grounds and on school excursions to assist in the promotion of responsible behaviour and self-protection from the effects of the sun.
- 7) Shade is considered when planning outdoor activities and excursions and students are encouraged to seek shade during break and leisure times.
- 8) For WH&S, staff are encouraged to role model sun protection through wearing a sun protective hat and clothing, sunglasses, sunscreen and seeking shade.

## **HOT WEATHER PROCEDURES**

1. When the forecast temperature is 38C or above, students play in the shade at lunch and stay indoors at recess time. An alternative classroom duty roster to release teachers is displayed in the staffroom.
2. Students may be dismissed at 12.30pm on days when the forecast maximum is 38°C or higher, particularly when this is for consecutive days. Under no circumstances will we consider allowing any children to walk or ride their bikes home at that hour of the day. Students can only go home early if being collected by a parent or authorised caregiver.
3. On days where there is a strong wind, play on the oval and near trees will be banned. The Leadership Team are to decide on indoor eating and play. Three short blasts of a bell will ring to alert staff and students to remain or return to classrooms for indoor eating and play.
4. Additional shelter areas will be available for student use during outside play times. These are the amphitheatre shade areas, Pavilion and Resource Centre.
5. Teachers will encourage students to drink water to keep hydrated and to play in the shade when playing outdoors.
6. Teachers on duty will actively discourage vigorous games from being played during hot weather.
7. Parents will be encouraged to wear hats when on school grounds and on school excursions to assist in the promotion of responsible behaviour and self-protection from the effects of the sun.

## **WET WEATHER PROCEDURES**

- 1) If it is raining outside prior to play, three short blasts of a bell will ring to alert staff and students to remain in classrooms for indoor eating and play. An alternative classroom duty roster to release teachers is displayed in the staffroom. If rain begins during outdoor play times, three short blasts of a bell will ring to alert staff and students to return to classrooms for indoor eating and play.
- 2) If the rain stops during indoor eating play times, one short blast of a bell will ring to permit outdoor eating and play and allow teachers to attend their duty.
- 3) On days where there is a strong wind and/ or rain, three short blasts of a bell will ring to alert staff and students to remain in their classrooms for indoor eating and play.

## **MONITORING, COMMUNICATION AND EVALUATION**

- 4) Teachers are to monitor that students are following the Berri Primary School Weather Policy and are wearing hats outside, during terms 1, 3 and 4, and the appropriate sun protective clothing to protect themselves from the effects of the sun. No hat, during terms 1, 3 and 4, means that students must sit in the 'no hat no play' designated seat area during Recess or Library during Lunchtime.
- 5) Teachers on duty are to monitor that students are returning to classrooms for indoor eating and play if three blasts of the bell are heard when playing outside.
- 6) The UV radiation and weather policy will be communicated to all new staff and families, and will be reinforced through assemblies, newsletters and other forms of communication.
- 7) The Berri Primary School Weather Policy will be reviewed by the staff, students and Governing Council members of Berri Primary School annually.

