



Heat & Sun Protection for Students

This document constitutes the policy on the effective management of heat and sun protection for Summerhill students.

The staff of Summerhill School has a collective duty of care towards the students who attend the School. This duty of care includes making every effort to ensure that students are protected against the ultra-violet damage and /or heat stress and taking remedial action if students are not adequately protected whilst under their care.

It is a duty of care and it is imperative as a risk management tool, bearing in mind it is the parent's responsibility that their children should be wearing sun block and have a cap at school. Should there be an occurrence of heat exhaustion, heat stroke or severe sunburn the staff of the school is vulnerable to possible civil action. Teachers must stick a copy of the template below into a student's communication book/diary if they have forgotten their cap.

Dear Parent,
Your child does not have a hat at school.
Please send one immediately.
We are not responsible for sunburn.

Summerhill Health and Safety Officer

Facts

- Approximately 1 out of every 5 children in South Africa will grow up to have some form of skin cancer.
- Just one blistering sunburn before the age of 18 may double the risk of eventually developing melanoma (a life threatening type of skin cancer) later in life.
- Roughly 80% of a person's total lifetime UV exposure occurs in the first 18 years of life.
- Babies, children and the elderly are highly sensitive to UV radiation and it can take less than 10 minutes for their unprotected skin to sunburn.
- Skin cancer is by far the most common cancer in South Africa.
- Over 90% of skin cancers can be prevented by staying safe in the Sun.

Policy

- Any child without a hat/cap will not be allowed to have break-time on the field and must stay in the shade under the duty teacher's supervision.
- Any child without a hat/cap will not be allowed to attend outdoor extra-murals.
- This information will immediately be provided to all parents via children's communication books.
- If a child does not possess a Summerhill School hat, any hat may be worn as a **temporary** measure.