**Inclement weather and sun protection Policy**

**Rationale**

We believe that too much of the sun’s UV radiation can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Sun exposure in the first ten years of life is a major factor in determining future cancer risk. Too little UV radiation from the sun can lead to low levels of vitamin D which is essential for healthy bones and muscles and for general health.

At Flagstaff Hill Kindergarten our aim is to develop an awareness of safe Sunsmart practices for children, families and the community.

Flagstaff Hill is situated in a high risk bush fire area and is surrounded by a gorge and large trees in both of our outdoor learning environments. We spend a high proportion of time outside in the these environments therefore we need a procedure in place to keep children, families and the community safe when there is inclement weather conditions in place e.g. extreme weather warnings.

**Using sun protection**

The Kindergarten uses a combination of sun protection measures for all outdoor activities on and off site across the year wherever the UV index reaches 3 or above during particularly in terms 1 and 4. Educators will role model sun smart behaviours with applying their own sun cream, wearing hats and appropriate clothing.

**Clothing**

Sun smart clothing is included as part of the items that can be purchased by families. Parents/caregivers will be encouraged to dress their children in clothing that protects their child’s shoulders for outdoor play.

**Sunscreen**

**Educators will:**

* Write the UV rating on the whiteboard to communicate to families what is required of them on arrival
* check the UV rating across the day utilising the Sunsmart App apply sun cream and apply sun cream after relaxation time. Children will stay inside for 20 minutes before going outdoors and educators will reapply every two hours if required.
* Educators will work closely with children to apply sun cream utilising mirrors to look and check so they can work towards doing this independently.

**Families will:**

* Check in with their GP or pediatrician if they have a child/ren with naturally very dark skin to discuss their vitamin D requirements
* Apply sun cream of SPF 30 or higher on arrival or apply at the Kindergarten when they arrive.
* Provide the Kindergarten with sun cream should their child have an allergy and fill in required paperwork( see managing medical conditions)

**Hats**

All children and educators are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears e.g. legionnaire, broad brimmed or bucket hats whenever the UV is 3 and above. Baseball or peak caps are not acceptable.

As part of the enrolment process each child will be supplied a green bucket hat which will be added to the families account. The Kindergarten will have spare hats on site, alternatively children will need to play inside or under the verandah if they do not have a hat.

**Curriculum**

Programs on skin cancer prevention are included in the curriculum in the Kindergarten. Sun Smart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole community through newsletters, Facebook, educator meetings, student and teacher activities and in enrolment packs. Each day on our whiteboard we will communicate with families what the UV will be for the day and to apply sun cream if this is going to be 3 or above. Pamphlets will be provided in our community area for families to read and access.

**Shade**

Care is taken during the peak UV radiation times, and outdoor activities are scheduled outside of these times or in the shade where possible. Outdoor events to be held during term two or earlier in the day where practical. Children are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.

Children who do not have appropriate hats or clothing are asked to stay in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun

**Educators will:**

* Set up learning where possible in shaded places outside. In the afternoon equipment will be packed up that is in full sun light
* Sun smart outdoor umbrellas will be used to provide additional shade
* Should the weather be too hot, children will play inside during the afternoon heat based on checking the BOM app

**Inclement weather conditions**

Flagstaff Hill Kindergarten provides a Bush Kindy program in Yeltanna Wirra and in the Sturt Gorge which is located next to the site. This provides risks especially with high winds, extreme weather warnings and bush fire.

During our outdoor play (front garden), Bush Kindy play during terms two and three and for our Gorge walks **educators will:**

* Check the BOM app for weather warnings especially high winds. Should an extreme weather warning be in place, educators will not play outside or enter the gorge for walks. Educators to also do a visual check on the weather and come inside should they notice a sudden change in the weather conditions.
* Check the CFS website in terms one and four for bush fire ratings. The site will be closed should there be a catastrophic rating. The ratings will be displayed to families on the whiteboard.
* Bring the children inside when the weather is too hot in the afternoon and utilise the undercover space and inside instead

**The Director will:**

* Make sure the Emergency management plan (EMP) is up to date and that educators are refreshed in the plan each year especially before term 1 and 4 commence.
* Work with the Department in the lead up to bush fire danger season to make sure that the site’s EMP is up to date
* Have annual inspections of the trees by an arborist (as organized by preventative maintenance)
* Make sure the site has an emergency invacuation/evacuation per term per group practicing a range of different scenarios

Approved by Educators and the Governing Council August 2021

To be reviewed 2024

Governing Council Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Kindergarten Director: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**R168(2)(a)(ii) Sun Protection**

**National Quality Standards 2.3**