

Sun Safe School Hats

Dear GEPS families,

We are beginning the 2023 school year with a strong message to our students about the importance of wearing the school hat. Last year we spoke to the students about the expectation to wear only the school bucket hat and why it is important at school. From Monday, 13 February, students are required to wear either our school bucket hat or a similar style blue bucket or wide brim hat while playing during morning, lunch and recess play. Students who are not wearing a Sun Smart Hat will be asked to play in a shady area such as our sandpit or covered Astro turf area in middle playground. This has been discussed with our P&C who are supportive of setting a consistent expectation within our school for all students to wear the approved school uniform, Sun Safe Hat.

Please help us to ensure children have adequate sun protection by not allowing your child to wear caps to school, as they are not part of our school uniform and do not meet the sun safe policy as set out by the NSW Department of Education.

The following passage from the NSW Cancer Council website regarding sun protection provides information about the importance of wearing a Sun Smart Hat while playing outdoors.



A Sun Smart Hat is a simple, effective way to protect your face, head, neck and ears from UV radiation. Your face is exposed to the damaging effects of UV radiation every day. The ears, temples, lips and nose are among the most common parts of the body for skin cancers to develop.

UV radiation can also cause permanent damage to your eyes and a sun smart hat can reduce the amount of UV radiation reaching your eyes by 50%. Remember, protecting your skin from UV radiation from the sun is the simplest way to reduce the risk of skin cancer.

Sun protection



2 in 3
Australians diagnosed with
skin cancer by the age of 70



95%
of skin cancers are caused
by UV radiation



\$1 billion
spent every year treating
skin cancer in Australia

<https://www.cancercouncil.com.au/cancer-prevention/sun-protection/>

School hats can be purchased through Country Feeling Uniforms by following the link below, or through our school office where we have a supply of school hats. These hats are currently selling for \$13 each, and you can use your service NSW vouchers towards school uniform purchases such as hats if going through the Country Feeling Uniforms webpage.

<https://www.countryfeelinguniforms.com.au/shop/glendale-east-public-school/gep-hat>

Local stores also sell a very similar blue bucket hat, without the school logo. Currently Best and Less are selling these hats for \$8 or 2 for \$10. These are also an acceptable option for a school approved Sun Smart Hat.

We trust that our parent/carer community will work with the school to support students to make a suitable choice in the type, style and suitability of the hat they bring to school each day. If you require financial assistance regarding the purchasing of a school hat, please contact me through the school office on 49549551.

Kind regards,

Tim Lewis - Principal

