



Sun Protection Policy

This policy applies to all school events on and off-site.

Rationale

A balance of ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure is important for health. 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 skin cancer risk.

Too little UV radiation from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels. Vitamin D is essential for healthy bones and muscles, and for general health. Sensible sun protection when UV is 3 and above does not put people at risk of vitamin D deficiency.

Objectives

This policy has been developed to:

- Encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever the UV Index level reaches 3 or above
- Work towards a safe school environment that provides shade for students, staff and the school community at appropriate times
- Assist students to be responsible for their own sun protection
- Ensure families and new staff are informed of the school's sun protection policy.

Site implementation times

The school uses a combination of sun protection measures for all outdoor activities during terms 1, 3 and 4, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above at other times. A combination of skin protection measures are considered when planning outdoor events (e.g. camps, excursions, sporting activities and swimming carnivals). Staff will access the daily sun protection times on the **SunSmart app**, **myuv.com.au** or the Bureau of Meteorology website **bom.gov.au/sa/uv** to assist with implementing this policy.

OSHC and vacation care implementation times

Before school care: sun protection is not usually required as the UV radiation levels are rarely above 3 during this time. However, during terms 1 and 4 it is recommended that student's wear a hat before school.

After school care: sun protection is required during terms 1 and 4, and whenever the UV is 3 and above at other times. Staff will access the daily local sun protection times to determine if sun protection measures are required during terms 2 and 3.

Vacation care: sun protection is required for all outdoor activities from 1 August to 30 April, and whenever the UV is 3 and above at other times.

Clothing

Sun protective clothing is included in the school uniform/dress code and sports uniform. The clothing is cool, loose fitting and made of closely woven fabric. It includes shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts and rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming.

Sunscreen

- Families are encouraged to apply sunscreen to their child/ren before attending Before School Care or the commencement of school.

- Students are encouraged to provide their own SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen. Roll-on is preferred. However, the school will provide students with supplies if required.
- Students will be encouraged to apply sunscreen at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and to reapply every two hours.
- Strategies are in place to remind and provide time for students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. time before eating lunch, reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen buddies)

Hats

All students and staff are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears e.g. legionnaire, broad brimmed or bucket hats, whenever they are outside and whenever the UV Index level reaches 3 or above. Baseball or peak caps are not acceptable. Parents are to be notified if students consistently do not have a hat.

Shade

- A shade audit will be conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.
- The school governing council makes sure there is a sufficient number of shelters and trees providing shade in the school grounds, particularly in areas where students congregate e.g. canteen, outdoor lesson areas and popular play areas.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all other outdoor activities.
- Outdoor activities are scheduled outside the peak UV radiation times or in the shade where possible.
- In consultation with the school governing council, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
- Students who do not have appropriate hats or clothing are asked to play in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.

Sunglasses (optional)

Students and staff are encouraged to wear close fitting, wraparound sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard AS/NZS 1067.1:2016 (Sunglasses: lens category two, three or four) and cover as much of the eye area as possible. Novelty tinted glasses do not protect against UV radiation and are not recommended.

Staff WHS and role modelling

As part of WHS UV risk controls and role modelling, whenever the UV Index level reaches 3 or above staff will wear sun protective hats, clothing and sunglasses and when outside seek shade whenever possible. Families and visitors are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures e.g. sun protective clothing and hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and shade, when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.

Curriculum

Programs on skin cancer prevention are included in the curriculum for all year levels.

Sun protection behavior is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school homepage, parent meetings, staff meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and in student enrolment packs.

Legislation

This policy relates to the following National Law and Regulations:

- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
 - Section 167—Protection from harm and hazards
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
 - Regulation 100—Risk assessment must be conducted before excursion
 - Regulation 113—Outdoor space—natural environment

- Regulation 114—Outdoor space—shade
- Regulation 168—Policies and procedures (2)(a)(ii)—sun protection
- Regulation 170—Policies and procedures to be followed
- Regulation 171—Policies and procedures to be kept available
- Regulation 172—Notification of change to policies or procedures.
- Work Health and Safety Act 2012

National Quality Standards

All of the following SunSmart procedures link to:

- Quality area 2: Children’s health and safety.

There are also links to:

- Quality area 1: Educational program and practice
- Quality area 3: Physical environment
- Quality area 5: Relationships with children
- Quality area 6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
- Quality area 7: Governance and leadership.

My Time Our Place

The sun protection procedures link to the following outcomes in the learning framework:

- Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world
- Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of well-being
- Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners
- Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators

Policy review

The school governing council and staff regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of the Sun Protection policy (at least every three years) and revise the policy when required.

Date of next policy review: March 2026