

Rationale

The sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation can't be seen or felt. Whatever the weather, it's important for people of all skin types to use sun protection whenever UV levels are three or higher.

Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life. Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, with two in three Australians developing some form of skin cancer before age 70.

By teaching sensible sun protection habits from an early age and implementing sun protection measures, schools can play a significant role in reducing skin cancer risk.

Purpose

This Sun Protection policy provides guidelines to help:

- ensure all students and staff are protected from over-exposure to UV radiation;
- ensure the outdoor environment provides shade for students and staff;
- ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills to help them be responsible for their own sun protection;
- support our school's strategies to meet its duty of care and occupational health and safety obligations to minimise harmful UV exposure for students, staff and visitors.

Involvement

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

- Students who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing are asked to play in the shade or in undercover areas.

Procedures

- To assist with the implementation of this policy, staff and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times at sunsmart.com.au.
- The sun protection measures listed are used for all outdoor activities during the **daily local sun protection times or whenever UV levels are 3 or higher**.

Environment

Seek shade

- The school makes sure there are enough shelters and trees providing shade in outdoor areas particularly in high-use areas e.g. where students have lunch, canteen, assemblies, sports, outdoor lessons and popular play spaces.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning all other outdoor activities.
- Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
- Shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- A shade assessment is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.

Behaviours

Slip on sun protective clothing

- Cool, loose-fitting, sun protective clothing made of densely woven fabric is included in our school uniform / dress code and sports uniform. It includes shirts with collars and elbow-length sleeves, longer dresses and shorts and rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming.

Slap on a sun protective hat

- All students and staff wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears (broad-brim or bucket hat), whenever they are outside. Caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative for students.
- Students without a sun protective hat are provided with a spare hat where possible.

Slop on sunscreen

- Students provide their own SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen.
- The school supplies SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for staff and students' use.
- Sunscreen is applied in accordance with the manufacturer's directions (applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapplied



every two hours, or more frequently if sweating or swimming).

- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors).

Learning

- Sun protection education is included as outlined in the Australian Curriculum.
- SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school website, social media, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.

WHS

- As part of WHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, staff, families and visitors:
 - wear a sun protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses;
 - apply SPF30 or higher broad-spectrum sunscreen; and
 - seek shade whenever possible.
- UV radiation exposure is considered as part of the school's risk management and assessment for all outdoor events and activities on and off-site e.g. UV radiation protection strategies (hats, clothing, shade, sunscreen) are included in school camp activities, excursions, sports days and interschool sports events.

Monitoring and review

- The school monitors and reviews the effectiveness of the Sun Protection policy and will revise the policy when required (at least once every three years) by completing a policy review.
- The Sun Protection policy is available to staff, students, families and visitors.

Next policy review: March 2025

