



Sun Protection Policy



Please note this policy is mandatory and staff are required to adhere to the content.

Policy overview

This Sun Protection policy provides guidelines to:

- 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 duty of care requirements; and
- Support appropriate WHS strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harms for staff and visitors.

Scope

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

Background

Too much of the sun's UV radiation can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Melanoma is the most common cancer in Australians aged 12-24 years, and sun exposure during childhood and adolescence is a critical factor in determining future skin cancer risk.

UV radiation cannot be seen or felt, and differs from infrared radiation that we feel as heat. UV levels are determined by the angle of earth to the sun, and are therefore unrelated to temperature, and can be high even on cool, cloudy days. Damage from UV radiation is cumulative and irreversible.

Procedures

To assist with the implementation of this policy, staff and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times via the free SunSmart app, www.myuv.com.au or ww.bom.gov.au.

The sun protection measures listed are used for all outdoor activities during the daily local sun protection times. The sun protection times are a forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology for the time of day UV levels are forecast to reach 3 or higher. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types.

In line with the Department for Education requirements and SunSmart guidelines, this policy is in place during **terms 1, 3 and 4 and when the UV is 3 and above at other times.**

1. Seek shade

The school provides sufficient 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.

Students who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing are asked to play under the COLA.

Shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.

An assessment is conducted regularly to determine the current availability of shade.

2. Slip on sun protective clothing

Our school uniform includes shirts with collars and longer style sleeves, and longer style shorts and dresses, and broad brim or bucket hats.

T-shirts or rash tops are required for outdoor swimming.

3. Slap on a hat

All students are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears (broad-brimmed or bucket hat), whenever they are outside. Peak caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative.

4. Slop on sunscreen

The school supplies SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for staff and student's use.

Sunscreen is available to be applied 20 minutes before going outdoors, and reapplied every two hours if remaining outdoors.

Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. staff remind students to put sunscreen on).

Engaging children, educators, staff and families

SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters.

As part of WHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, staff, families and visitors are encouraged to:

Wear a sun protective hat, covering clothing

Apply sunscreen; and

Seek shade whenever possible.

Monitoring and review

Staff monitor and review the effectiveness of the Sun Protection policy and revise the policy when required (at least once every three years) by completing a policy review and membership renewal with Cancer Council SA SunSmart Program at sunsmart.org.au.

Sun Protection policy updates and requirements will be made available to staff, families and visitors.

Next policy review: March 2022