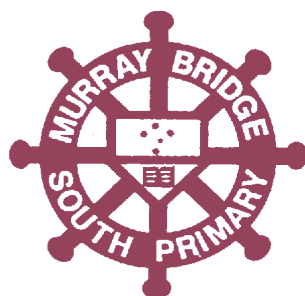


Sun protection policy

Murray Bridge South Primary School



Be Safe. Be Kind. Be Ready to Learn.

Approved: March 2022
Reviewed: March 2025



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

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 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.

A combination of sun protection measures are considered, including the availability of shade when planning all other outdoor activities.

Students are actively encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.

Students are to eat in the Lunch Shed when outside.

Outdoor assemblies are held earlier/ indoors/ in shade.

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

Care is taken during the peak UV radiation times and outdoor activities are scheduled outside of these times where possible.

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 is made from a closely woven material which 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 and staff are required to wear a broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hat that covers the face, ears and neck. Baseball caps are not acceptable. Hats are to be worn all year round.

4. Slop on sunscreen

SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen is supplied by the school for students and staff use. Alternatively, families and staff are asked to supply their own sunscreen. Sunscreen is available to be applied 20 minutes before going outdoors, and reapplied every two hours if remaining outdoors, or more often if washed or wiped off.

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. Sun protection education is incorporated into the curriculum for at least every second year level.

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

Wear a sun protective hat, covering clothing

Apply sunscreen; and

Seek shade whenever possible.

Families and visitors are encouraged to role model SunSmart behaviours when participating in or attending outdoor activities with the school.

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.

The school's sun protection policy is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community including staff, volunteers and families through newsletters, the school website or forum.