



**Government of South Australia**

Department for Education and  
Child Development

## **SUN PROTECTION POLICY**

### **BACKGROUND**

Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin damage, 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 factors including angle of earth to the sun, but are unrelated to temperature, and levels can be high even on cool and cloudy days. Damage from UV radiation is cumulative and irreversible.

Students are at school 5 days a week during the highest risk times during the day.

Most skin damage and cancer is preventable by taking precautions when the UV radiation is above 3.

### **AIM**

The aim of this policy is to

- Encourage positive attitudes towards Sun Smart and skin protection.
- Ensure all students and staff are protected from overexposure 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.
- Support appropriate WHS strategies to minimise risk to staff and visitors.

The Sun Protection policy is in place during Terms 1,3 and 4 plus the hours when the UV levels reach 3 or above as predicted by the Bureau of Meteorology. A combination of sun protection measures will be used during these times for outdoor activities.

With this policy we hope to engage staff, students and their families in becoming Sun Smart.

SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school website and intranet, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, school enrolment and staff inductions.

The school's intranet and internet will show daily sun protection times and maximum UV level for the day.

This policy runs in conjunction with the school's hot weather policy.

As part of WHS UV risk controls and role modelling, when the UV is 3 and above staff, families and visitors will:

- wearing a sun protective hat outdoors
- wearing sun protective clothing and sunglasses
- Applying sunscreen
- Seeking shade where possible
- Minimise exposure by minimising outdoor activities during peak UV times of the day

The school council and staff will monitor and review the effectiveness of the Sun Protection Policy whenever required (at least once every 3 years).

Sun protection policy updates will be available to staff, families and visitors. A Sun Protection Policy review will be provided to Cancer Council SA every 3 years, in order for the school to retain its SunSmart status.

### **Slip on Sun Protective Clothing**

- Sun protective clothing is included in the school uniform. It is cool and loose fitting and includes shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves, longer shorts and dresses.
- Rashies will be worn by students when outdoor swimming is involved.

### **Slop on Sunscreen**

- Children will provide their own SPF 30 or higher, broad spectrum water resistant sunscreen.
- Strategies are in place to remind children to apply sunscreen.
- The school will provide SPF 30 or higher, broad spectrum water resistant sunscreen for swimming lessons.
- Children will apply sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors, and reapply every 2 hours if remaining outdoors.

## **Slap on a hat**

- All students and staff are required to wear a hat that protects their face, ears and necks. This includes broad brimmed and legionnaires hats. Caps are not acceptable.
- Hats are compulsory in Terms 1, 3 and 4, and when the UV is above 3 at other times. As per Department of Education Policy and SunSmart guidelines.

## **Seek Shade**

- The school has made sure there is sufficient shade provision within the school.
- The school shall regularly reassess shade and consider increasing provision.
- The available shade is considered when planning outdoor activities
- Students are encouraged to use available shade.
- Students who do not have appropriate hats or clothing will be asked to play or sit in the shade.