

This policy applies to all school events on and off-site. The sun protection measures outlined in this policy are in effect for Term 1, 3 and 4, and when the UV radiation level is 3 and above at other times.

### Rationale

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.

### Purpose

This SunSmart 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 our school's strategies to meet its duty of care and work health and safety obligations to minimise harmful UV exposure for students, staff and visitors.

### Procedures

- To assist with the implementation of this policy, staff and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times via Academy SunSmart Widget or at [sunsmart.org.au](http://sunsmart.org.au).
- The sun protection measures listed are used for all outdoor activities during the school day and any after school events that fall within the daily local sun protection times.
- Teachers need to ensure they advise their class on the sun protection times every morning when completing their class attendance roll and that their classroom's sun protection time poster is updated.

*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.*

### Environment

#### Seek shade

- The school council makes sure there are 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.
- Students are provided with adequate shade within the school grounds by trees and shaded structures, including 2 large COLAs. All play grounds are shaded.
- On days when the temperature is 36° or above, as measured prior to each break, children will remain inside at recess and lunchtimes as stated on the Bureau of Meteorology, Burton.
- A combination of sun protection measures including the availability of shade, is considered when planning all outdoor activities.
- Care is taken during the peak UV radiation times, and outdoor activities are scheduled outside of these times or in the shade where possible.
- Sports Days and other outdoor events are held during Term Two or earlier in the day where practical.
- 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 in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.
- 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 (legionnaire, broad-brim or bucket hat), whenever they are outside during school hours and sun protection times. Caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative.

### Slop on sunscreen

- The school supplies SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for staff and student's use.
- Students are encouraged to provide their own SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen. (Students with a known allergy to a particular sunscreen must provide their own SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen that is suitable for their skin type).
- Sunscreen is applied in accordance with the manufacturer's directions
- Sunscreen is applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors (preferably before arriving at school for an excursion/event) and reapplied every two hours if remaining outdoors.
- Students are to apply their own sunscreen under the supervision of the classroom teacher/school staff. Teachers will not apply sunscreen on students.
- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder posters near exit doors, sunscreen monitors, teacher reminders).

### Slide on sunglasses [if practical]

- Where practical students and staff wear close-fitting, wrap-around sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard 1067 (Sunglasses: Category 2, 3 or 4) and cover as much of the eye area as possible.

## Learning

- Programs on sun protection are included in the curriculum for all year levels.
- Students are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole school community.
- SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school website/intranet, 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 sunscreen; and
  - seek shade whenever possible.

## Monitoring and review

- The school council and staff monitor and review the effectiveness of the SunSmart policy and revise the policy when required (at least once every three years) by completing a policy review and membership renewal with SunSmart at [sunsmart.org.au](https://www.sunsmart.org.au).
- The SunSmart policy is available to staff, students, families and visitors.

Next policy review: 01/06/2024

## Relevant documents / links

- <https://www.sunsmart.org.au/>
- [Australian Professional Standards for Teachers \(AITSL\) – Standard 4.4 and 7.2](#)
- Safe Work Australia: [Guide on exposure to solar ultraviolet radiation \(UVR\) \(2019\)](#)
- Cancer Council SA – Sun Protection Policy review checklist for South Australian Primary schools.

