



# Sun Smart Policy

This Policy is taken from the Cancer Council SA Sun Smart policy for primary schools. Please note, our policy states sun protection is used during Term 1, 3 and 4, in line with the Sun Smart guidelines.

## Rationale

A balance of ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure is important for health. Too much of the sun's UV radiation can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage, and skin cancer. Sun exposure in the first ten years of life is a major factor in determining future skin cancer risk. Too little UV radiation from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels. Vitamin D is essential for healthy bones and muscles, and for general health.

## Objectives

**This Sun Smart policy has been developed to:**

- Encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV Index levels reach 3 and above.
- Work towards a safe school environment that provides shade for students, staff and the school community at appropriate times.
- Ensure all students and staff have some UV radiation exposure for vitamin D.
- Assist students to be responsible for their own sun protection.
- Ensure that families and new staff are informed of the school's Sun Smart policy.

The school uses a combination of sun protection measures for all outdoor activities during Term 1, 3 and 4, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above at other times including rescheduling of major events. Staff, families and visitors are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures e.g. sun protective clothing and hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and shade, when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.

## Clothing

Sun protective clothing is included in the school uniform/dress code and sports uniform. The clothing is cool, loose fitting and made of closely woven fabric. Students are encouraged to wear shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts, and rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming. These guidelines also apply to casual clothes days.

Reviewed September 2023





## Sunscreen

- Students can use their own SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen and/or the school supplies SPF 50 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for staff and students use.
- Sunscreen is applied prior to going outdoors and reapplied every two hours if outdoors for an extended period.
- Parents and teachers will remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors.

## Hats

All students are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears e.g. legionnaire, broad brimmed or bucket hats, whenever they are outside. Failure to do so will result in seeking immediate shade. Baseball or peak caps are not acceptable.

## Shade

- A shade audit is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.
- The school makes sure there is a sufficient number of shelters and trees providing shade in the school grounds, particularly in areas where students congregate e.g. canteen, outdoor lesson areas and popular play areas.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all other outdoor activities.
- Outdoor activities are scheduled outside the peak UV radiation times or in the shade where possible.
- In consultation with the governing council, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
- Students who do not have appropriate hats or clothing are asked to play in the courtyard area protected from the sun.

## Role modelling and Work Health and Safety (WHS)

As part of WHS, staff are recommended to wear sun protective hats, clothing, sunglasses, sunscreen and seek shade when the UV is 3 and above.

## Curriculum

Sun Smart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through these Sun Smart Policy guidelines and implementation.

Reviewed September 2023

