



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

Children's skin is more sensitive to sunlight exposure than an adult's skin. They should never be left in the sun when ultraviolet (UV) radiation is 3 and above without sun protection.

The best way to protect children's skin from sun exposure is to **Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide**.

- Slip on a t-shirt
- Slap on a hat
- Slop on some sunscreen
- Seek shade
- Slide on sunglasses

Rationale

A balance of 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. Sensible sun protection when UV is 3 and above does not put people at risk of vitamin D deficiency.

Objectives

This SunSmart 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 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 SunSmart policy.

Staff are encouraged to access the SunSmart UV Alert at www.bom.gov.au/sa/uv to find out daily local sun protection times to assist with the implementation of this policy.

The school uses a combination of sun protection measures for all outdoor activities during terms 1, 3 and 4, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above at other times, with the exception of hat wearing required all year round. Care is taken during the peak UV radiation times and outdoor activities are scheduled outside of these times where possible. Sports Days and other outdoor events to be held during term 2, term 3 or earlier in the day where practical. A combination of skin protection measures are considered when planning outdoor events e.g. camps, excursions, sporting activities and swimming carnivals.

1. 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. It includes shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts and rash tops or t-shirts for outdoor swimming.

2. Sunscreen

- Sunscreen will provided for Preschool children and will be reapplied to children twenty minutes before lunch and other outdoor activities and will be reapplied every 2 hours when outdoors or more often if required.
- If your child is sensitive to sunscreen you will need to provide the School/Preschool with their own, clearly labelled and named, sunscreen. Any sunscreen provided must be SPF30 or higher broad spectrum sunscreen and water resistant.

- The school supplies SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum and water resistant sunscreen for staff and student's use. This is provided to each classroom.
- Sunscreen is applied at least twenty minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours.
- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen buddies).
- With parental and GP or paediatrician consent, students with naturally very dark skin are not required to wear sunscreen to help with vitamin D requirements.

3. Hats

All students and staff are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears e.g. legionnaire, broad brimmed or bucket hats, whenever they are outside **all year round**. Baseball or peak caps are not acceptable.

4. Shade

- A shade audit is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.
- The Governing Council 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.
- 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 shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.

5. Sunglasses [optional]

Students and staff are encouraged to wear close fitting, wraparound sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard AS/NZS 1067:2003 (Sunglasses: lens category 2, 3 or 4) and cover as much of the eye area as possible.

Staff WHS and role modelling

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

- wear sun protective hats, clothing and sunglasses when outside
- apply SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen
- seek shade whenever possible.

Families and visitors are encouraged to role model and 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.

Curriculum

- Programs on sun prevention, skin cancer prevention and vitamin D are included in the curriculum for all year levels.
- SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school website, parent meetings, staff meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and in student enrolment packs.

Policy review

The Governing Council and staff regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of the SunSmart policy (at least every three years) and revise the policy when required.