



## INCLEMENT WEATHER AND SUN PROTECTION POLICY

### QUALITY AREA 2 – CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY

This policy covers both the **Occasional Care** and **Kindergarten** programs and apply to all centre activities and events (on and off site)

#### STATEMENT

All department school sites, and early childhood education and care services must have a sun protection policy. This policy is in effect Terms 1, 3 and 4 and when ultraviolet (UV levels) are 3 and above. Site must inform the community including employees, students, parents and volunteers of the sun protection policy. Children and young people are encouraged to be responsible for their own sun protection. *This policy also ensures that in cases of extreme weather, people are safe from the risk of weather-related injuries.*

At Klemzig Kindergarten preschool staff work with children and families to ensure everyone's safety and wellbeing in situations of hot weather, storms or strong winds. Staff recognise the importance of helping children to regulate their behaviours in inclement weather and will work with children and families to develop appropriate responses when the weather reaches extremes. This kindergarten has adequate air-conditioning in all inside areas, covered verandahs and shady areas, and shelter for safe play.

Staff must ensure they have considered the potential hazards for all locations and situations impacted by inclement weather conditions. Staff will monitor daily weather forecasts through [Bureau of Meteorology](#) and identify any potential inclement weather risks. UV rating recommendation will be taken from SunSmart [www.myuv.com.au](http://www.myuv.com.au) (Adelaide location)

#### Educators will:

- Take reasonable care to protect their own health and safety and that of others in the workplace
- Activate appropriate cooling systems for comfort and relief in times of hot weather. All air conditioning and heating systems are adjustable to suit the weather and temperature.
- Undertake risk assessments for outdoor play experiences if the weather is unpredictable or there are weather warnings and close down areas that are unsafe to play near (e.g., near trees in extreme wind)
- Ensure care is taken during the peak UV radiation times and outdoor activities are scheduled outside of these times, where possible.
- Encourage children to wear hats outside when the UV is 3 and above at other times. (Children are required to wear a SunSmart hat during outdoor activities when the UV is 3 and above. Children who are not wearing a SunSmart hat are required to play in the shade or return indoors.)
- Staff provide time for sunscreen application, at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and sunscreen is re-applied every two hours if outdoors. Staff to support children in applying sunscreen.
- When the UV is 3 and above, schedule eating of lunch to occur inside and or in a shaded area and encourage play in shaded areas
- Staff are required to practice and model SunSmart behaviours including wearing sun protective clothing, sunscreen, appropriate hats and sunglasses and seek shade when outdoors as well as checking the daily sun protection times on the BOM website or SunSmart app each day to support the implementation of sun protection. Staff are required to wear a broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaire hat when outside.
- Ensure a combination of sun protection measures are considered when planning outdoor activities such as excursions and water-based activities.
- Ensure sun protection is incorporated into the learning framework and/or planned experiences.
- Staff are to use available areas of shade for outdoor activities as much as possible and actively encourage children to play in the shade.
- Encourage children to frequently drink water and ensure drinking water is accessible to children at all times.
- Promote families to provide a cooling element in child's lunch box to keep food cold until lunch time.
- Be made aware of this policy through the Induction procedure
- Ensure the policy will be available on the Kindergarten web page

#### Parents/Caregivers will:

- Dress children and provide extra clothing that is weather appropriate i.e., layers for cold weather, minimise heat gain, layers that can be easily removed during activity and of a type that is sun safe and dry clothes after playing in rain etc. Appropriate sun protective clothing is included in the centre uniform/dress code. Clothing made of a closely woven material including tops with collars and longer sleeves and longer-style skirts, dresses and shorts are recommended. Rash tops or t-shirts over bathers are recommended for outdoor swimming activities. Children who do not have appropriate sun protective clothing will be asked to play in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.
- Apply broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen (SPF of at least 30+) prior to arrival. Children are reminded to apply sunscreen under adult supervision.
- Families and visitors are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures when participating in or attending outdoor activities.
- Parents/Caregivers may wish to collect children early on days of extreme weather. However, the Preschool has cooling systems and will remain open for normal operating hours.
- Be encouraged (along with all visitors) to role model sun protection when taking part in activities at the Kindy.
- Be made aware of this site-based policy upon enrolment of their child at the Kindergarten

### **Sun Protection Specific Procedures to be followed by all on Klemzig Kindergarten Site**

Sun protection times are in place during terms 1, 3 and 4 and when the ultraviolet (UV) radiation level is 3 and above, at other times. A combination of sun protection measures are considered when planning outdoor activities such as excursions and water based activities.

Scheduling: Care in planning outside activities is taken during the peak UV radiation times. Indoor and shaded activities are available during the peak UV times.

Seek shade: Areas of shade are to be accessed for outdoor activities as much as possible. The site has a large shade over the sandpit, slide, stage area and shady trees.

Slip on clothing: Appropriate sun protective clothing is to be worn, including tops with collars and longer sleeves and longer style skirts and shorts. No singlet or midriff tops are allowed.

Slap on a hat: All children are provided with a Klemzig Kindergarten legionnaire hat and staff are required to wear a broad brimmed or bucket hat. Baseball caps are not acceptable. Children who do not have appropriate hats or clothing with them are asked to play in an area protected from the sun.

Slop on sunscreen: SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen is supplied by the centre for children and staff use.

Alternatively, families and staff are asked to supply their own sunscreen. Sunscreen is to be applied at home before arrival or upon arrival to kindergarten and then at lunchtime, 20 minutes before going outdoors. Sunscreen is to be reapplied every 2 hours when outdoors, or more often when taking part in water-based activities. Sunscreen is always accessible by staff for further reapplication throughout the day.

Curriculum: Age-appropriate information on sun protection is included in children's programming.

WH&S and role modelling: For Work Health and Safety and role modelling, when the UV is 3 and above, staff are required to practice SunSmart behaviours including wearing sun protective clothing, sunscreen, appropriate hats and sunglasses and seek shade when outdoors. Visitors and parents are encouraged to role model SunSmart behaviours when participating in or attending outdoor activities with the centre.

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

Policy review: This policy will be reviewed in conjunction with staff and Governing Council parents according to the review cycle.

*The policy has been informed by the SunSmart Application Process.*

*Ratified by Governing Council August 2023  
to be reviewed annually*