



# SS

## SUN SAFE POLICY

PROSPECT PRIMARY SCHOOL  
CREATED NOVEMBER 2016  
REVIEWED APRIL 2017  
REVIEWED FEBRUARY 2020  
REVIEWED AUGUST 2021

### CONTEXT/BELIEF STATEMENT

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

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 10 years of life is a major factor in determining future skin cancer risk. Too little UV from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels. Vitamin D is essential for healthy bones and muscles, and for general health.

This SunSmart Policy has been developed to:

- encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever the predicted 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.cancersa.org.au/sunsmart](http://www.cancersa.org.au/sunsmart) 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 from 1 September to 30 April and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above at other times.

#### 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 vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming.

#### Sunscreen

- Students must provide their own SPF 50 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 at least twenty minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours if outdoors for an extended period.
  - Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen buddies).
  - With parental consent, students with naturally very dark skin are not required to wear sunscreen to help with vitamin D requirements.



## Hats

- All students and staff are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears, e.g. bucket hats, whenever they are outside. Baseball or peak caps are not acceptable.
- Children who do not have their hats with them will sit in a designated area protected from the sun.

## No Hats - Shade

- A shade audit is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.
- The school 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 school 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 allocated areas protected from the sun verandah (man made shelter not trees). The allocated areas are – under the veranda near rooms 16,17,& 18, the verandah outside rooms 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

## Staff Responsibilities

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

- wear sun protective hats, clothing and sunglasses when outside
- apply SPF 50 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen
- seek shade whenever possible. 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.

