



# Sun protection in schools and early childhood education services

## Purpose

All department school sites and early childhood education and care services must have a sun protection policy in effect for school terms 1, 3 and 4 and whenever ultra violet (UV) radiation levels reach 3 or above. Sites must inform the school 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.

## Using sun protection

The school uses a combination of sun protection measures for all outdoor activities on and off-site during **1 August to 30 April** including:

- Hats must be worn **1 August to 30 April**
- **1 May to 30 July** classes to review UV prediction for the day, if 3 or higher hats must be worn or play in shaded areas allocated areas are – the breezeway, under the veranda near rooms 16,17 and 18, the verandah outside rooms 7, 8, 9,10 and 11
- **1 May to 30 July** the UV prediction for the day will be mentioned in the daily update via Teams
- Promote sun smart policy to new families and staff
- Key dates for protection are promoted in newsletter
- During peak UV radiation times schedule outside activities to be earlier in the day if possible.

## 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.

## Sunscreen

Students must provide their own SPF 30 or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen (*and/or*) the school supplies SPF 30 or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for staff and students' use.



Sunscreen is applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours if remaining outdoors.

Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g., reminder notices, sunscreen monitors and buddies)

- Sunscreen is provided to all classes and encourage to use
- Class reminders prior to outside activities and lunchtimes

Families with children who have naturally very dark skin are encouraged to discuss their vitamin D requirements with their GP or pediatrician.

## Hats

All students and staff are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears e.g., broad brimmed or bucket hats, whenever they are outside during **1 August to 30 April**. Baseball or peak caps are not acceptable.

## Shade

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 to be 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 clothing are asked to stay in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.

- A shade audit is conducted regularly to determine suitable shaded areas are available for all year levels in their play zones
- In consultation with Governing Council, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds
- Yard duty teachers monitor to ensure students are adhering to the policy re the requirement of hats. Students with no hats when the predicted UV rating is 3 and above are required to play in the shaded areas. The allocated areas are – the breezeway, under the veranda near rooms 16,17 and 18, the verandah outside rooms 7, 8, 9,10 and 11.
- Staff to role model the use of hats and shade protection

## Curriculum

Programs on skin cancer prevention are included in the curriculum for all year levels.

Sun Smart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school homepage, parent meetings, staff meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and in student enrolment packs.

- Sun smart policy is available on the school website
- Promote the use of sun smart practice when families or visitors attend outside events e.g., sports day, excursion / incursions
- UV rating is displayed on all curriculum devices via the Prospect Primary School intranet
- Health and Physical Education curriculum



## Communication and review

- consultation of this policy has been undertaken with students, staff and Governing Council with information extracted from the Cancer Council SA SunSmart policy
- to ensure community members are aware of the policy requirements, the policy is available on the school website
- the policy is to be reviewed in three years (2026)

