



Sun Protection Policy

Document Date	Wednesday, 18 September 2024
Process Owner	Principal
Approval Authority	Faith and Education Standing Committee
Next Review Date	2027
Revision History	2020, 2024

This policy applies to all outdoor school activities on and off-site and is considered in the planning of all outdoor events.

Rationale

Too much ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in life.

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. More than two in three Australians will be diagnosed with skin cancer in their lifetime. As the sun's UV radiation (which cannot be seen or felt) is the major cause of skin cancer, most skin cancers can be prevented by using sun protection measures whenever UV levels are three or higher.

Purpose

Given school hours fall within peak UV periods of the day, this comprehensive evidence-informed policy provides guidelines on effective UV protection strategies.

This Sun Protection Policy provides guidelines to:

- ensure all students and staff are protected from over-exposure to UV radiation;
- ensure the outdoor environment provides shade for students and staff;
- ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills to help them be responsible for their own sun protection;
- support our school's strategies to meet its duty of care and occupational health and safety obligations to minimise harmful UV exposure for students, staff and visitors.

Legislation and standards

- [Duty of Care](#)
- [Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004](#)
- [Education and Training Reform Act 2006](#): Sch.5 Reg. 1 (1.2)

Implementation

Daily sun protection times are forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology for the time-of-day UV levels are predicted to reach 3 or higher, based on location. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types. In South Australia, UV levels typically reach 3 or higher daily from mid-August to the end of April.

To assist with the implementation of this policy, staff and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times via sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au.

The sun protection measures listed in this policy are used for all outdoor activities **during the daily local sun protection times**.

Procedures

1. Physical environment

Shade: Seek shade

- The College ensures there is enough shade (natural, built, temporary) available in the school grounds, particularly in high-use areas– for example where students have lunch, cafe, popular play spaces/equipment, assemblies, sports and outdoor lessons
- The availability of shade is considered when planning all outdoor activities and excursions.
- Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside
- The College ensures shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- A shade assessment is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.

2. Social-emotional environment

School uniform/dress code

The school's uniform/dress code for students and staff applies to all outdoor events on and off-site including PE and sports lessons, interschool sports activities, excursions, camps and casual days.

Clothing: Slip on sun protective clothing

- Both the school uniform/dress code and sports uniform/dress code include:
 - Cool, loose-fitting, sun protective clothing made of densely woven fabric
 - Shirts with collars and elbow-length sleeves
 - Longer-style dresses, skirts, shorts and pants.



- Rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming and water sport activities.
- Students without appropriate covering clothing will be asked to use shaded areas or suitable areas protected from the sun.

Hats: Slap on a sun protective hat

- All students from Reception to Year 5 are **required** to wear sun-safe hats, including a broad-brimmed, bucket-style, or legionnaire hat, as part of our College uniform. Students must wear these during all outdoor activities, including PE lessons, recess, and lunch, during Terms 1 and 4.
- Baseball caps are not acceptable for Reception to Year 5.
- For students in Years 6 to 12, wearing sun-safe hats is **strongly encouraged** but not mandated.
- A 'no hat, no play' rule applies for Reception to Year 12.
- Students without a hat will be asked to use shaded areas or suitable areas protected from the sun.

Sunscreen: Slop on sunscreen

- The school supplies SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen from key locations across the campus for staff and students to use.
- Strategies are in place to remind and encourage students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g., reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen buddies) with time for this scheduled into the daily routine.
- The school community is educated about the correct use of sunscreen and the level of protection it provides (apply 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapply every 2 hours, or more frequently if sweating or swimming e.g. towel dry and then re-apply).

Sunglasses: Slide on sunglasses [if practical]

Where practical, students are encouraged to wear close-fitting, wrap-around sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard 1067 (Sunglasses: Category 2, 3 or 4) and cover as much of the eye area as possible.

3. Governance and leadership

Staff role-modelling and OHS

- As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, staff:
 - wear a sun-protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses;
 - apply SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen; and

- seek shade whenever possible.
- SunSmart information is included in staff handbook/orientation materials.
- Staff are supported to access resources, tools and professional learning to enhance their knowledge and capacity to promote sun protection education across the curriculum.
- UV radiation exposure is considered as part of the [school's risk management and assessment](#) for all outdoor events and activities on and off-site, e.g. UV radiation protection strategies (hats, clothing, shade, sunscreen) are included in school camp activities, excursions, sports days and interschool sports events.

4. School and community partnerships

Families and visitors

- For their own safety and to reinforce our school's sun protection strategies, families, visitors and volunteers are also asked to:
 - wear a sun-protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses;
 - apply SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen; and
 - seek shade whenever possible.

5. School curriculum

Learning

- Sun protection and UV safety education is incorporated into the curriculum for all year levels
- Students are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures at the school including taking leadership roles in managing sun protection for the whole school community e.g. accessing daily sun protection times, hat reminders and supporting sunscreen application.
- SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through a variety of channels such as newsletters, school website/intranet/noticeboard, staff meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.

Monitoring and review

- The College Council, staff and students/SRC monitor and review the effectiveness of our Sun Protection Policy (at least every three years) and revise the policy when required.
- Sun Protection Policy updates and requirements will be made available to staff, families, students and visitors.



- The College's Sun Protection Policy is easily accessible to staff, students and parents via the school website and school intranet.

Other Policies related to this Policy

- Excursion Policy
- Health Management Policy

Relationship to regulations

Cancer Council of SA for general information and resources

www.cancersa.org.au

Reference to Sun Protection

[CESA Duty of Care Policy](#)