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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 terms 1, 3 and 4** and whenever ultra violet (UV) radiation levels reach 3 or above including:

##### 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 use their own SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen and/orthe SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen supplied by the school for staff and students’ use. Families are encouraged to apply sunscreen before students attend school in the morning.

Sunscreen is applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours if remaining outdoors whilst undertaking school activities including excursions, camps, and sporting events.

Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors including posters, regular reminders and classroom routines. Routines for sunscreen application will be determined based on age of students and timetabled classroom activities.

##### 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. Hats are available for purchase from the school uniform shop. 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. Students not wearing hats will be directed to shaded areas including the office verandah and shaded play spaces.

##### Curriculum

Programs on skin cancer prevention are included in the Health and Physical Education curriculum for all year levels.

Sun Smart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school intranet page, parent meetings, staff meetings, school assemblies, and student and teacher activities. The school will continue to refer to the Cancer Council resources to ensure current best practice in regards to sun safe behaviours are maintained.

The information has been extracted from the [Cancer Council SA SunSmart policy](https://www.cancersa.org.au/cut-my-risk/sunsmart/secondary-schools/sunsmart-policy-information)

**Policy review date: July 2024**