



## Sun Protection Policy

*'The sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation can't be seen or felt and is most intense during the middle of the day. Whatever the weather, it's important for people of all skin types to use sun protection whenever UV levels are three or higher.*

*Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, with two in three Australians developing some form of skin cancer before age 70. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life.*

*Given students and employees are at school during peak UV times, schools play a major role in providing an environment where policies and procedures can positively influence long-term SunSmart behaviour'.  
**Cancer Council SA***

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to promote positive attitudes and effective behaviours that will protect staff and children from skin damage caused by harmful ultraviolet radiation from the sun.

This 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 duty of care requirements; and
- support appropriate WH&S strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harms for staff and visitors.

Taking effective skin protection measures to ensure that staff and children can work and play in a safe and secure environment can contribute to the reduction of cases of skin damage.

### **Hats**

All children and staff must wear a broad brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hat whenever they are outside when the UV levels is 3 and above. Children who do not have hats will need to play in areas where they are protected from the sun.

### **Clothing**

The Cancer Council recommends that clothing should cover shoulders, arms and the back of the neck, therefore singlets, strappy tops and midriff tops are not acceptable.

### **Sunscreen**

Parents will be encouraged to apply SPF 30+ broad spectrum to their children prior to attending preschool. Staff will supply sunscreen (Cancer Foundation recommended sunscreen) for the children to apply with staff support before outdoor activities. This will occur 20 minutes prior to children going outside. Parents will sign consent to apply sunscreen during enrolment. In cases of specific sensitivities staff must be given the personal sunscreen for the child to apply, along with written permission.

### **Staff Responsibilities**

- To act as role models by applying sunscreen and wearing sun safe hats and clothing
- support children to apply sunscreen before outdoor activities when the UV is 3 or above
- where possible, position outdoor activities in appropriately shaded areas
- include sun protection in the educational program
- promote sun protection to the community via newsletters and ensure all new staff and families are informed of the policy
- monitor the UV levels during May to August and take appropriate action

### **Parent Responsibilities**

- become familiar with and support the site's Sun Protection policy by applying sunscreen to their children before commencing sessions
- give written consent for staff to supply sunscreen (or provide own sunscreen for their child if needed)
- supply an approved hat
- ensure sun safe clothing is worn by their children whilst at preschool

### **Hot Weather Strategies**

If the temperature rises to 36C the hot weather policy for North Ingle School and Preschool is enforced and children will not be permitted to play outdoors.

If high temperatures are forecast for the day, outside play will only occur early in the day if the temperature has yet to reach 36C.

### **References**

*This procedure is consistent with the requirements of the:*

- *Education and Care Services National Law and Regulations*
- *Cancer Council SA Early Childhood Centre Sun Smart policy*