

Bute Early Learning and Primary School Sun Protection Policy

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

Rationale

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 during childhood and adolescence is a critical factor in determining future skin cancer risk.

Too little UV radiation from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels. Vitamin D is essential for healthy bones and muscles, and for general health. Sensible sun protection whenever UV is 3 and above does not put people at risk of vitamin D deficiency.

Objectives

This sun protection policy has been developed to:

- encourage the entire school/Early Learning Centre community to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV Index levels reach 3 and above
- work towards a safe school and Early Learning Centre environment that provides shade for students, staff and the school community at appropriate times
- assist students to be responsible for their own sun protection
- ensure families and new staff are informed of the school/Early Learning Centre's sun protection policy.

Legislation

- **Work Health and Safety Act 2012**



Procedures

Staff are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times on the SunSmart app, myuv.com.au or the Bureau of Meteorology website <http://www.bom.gov.au/sa/uv> to assist with implementing this policy.

The school uses a combination of sun protection measures for all outdoor **activities during Terms one, three and four, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above at other times.** A combination of sun protection measures are considered when planning outdoor events e.g. camps, excursions, sporting activities and swimming carnivals.

1. Clothing

Sun protective clothing is included in the school uniform/dress code and sports uniform (Sports Day polo). The clothing is cool, loose fitting and made of closely woven fabric. It includes shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves. For aquatic activities, rash vest tops or t-shirts are required.

2. Sunscreen

- The school supplies SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for staff and students' use. Parents are also encouraged to supply sunscreen for their children, particularly if they have sensitive skin.
- 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 such as reminders from educators, Sun Smart information board etc.
- Families with children who have naturally very dark skin are encouraged to discuss their vitamin D requirements with their GP or paediatrician.

3. Hats

All students and staff are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears, with the school bucket hat the preferred option, for all outdoor activities during Terms one, three and four, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above at other times.

Baseball or peak caps are not acceptable.

4. Shade

- A shade audit is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.
- The school council ensures there is a sufficient number of shelters, portable shade structures 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.
- 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 have identified contingency plans for extreme weather. This includes additional shades, earlier starting times and postponement protocols, if needed.
- 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 shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.

5. Sunglasses

- Students and staff are encouraged to wear close fitting, wraparound sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard AS/NZS 1067.1:2016 (Sunglasses: lens category two, three or four) and cover as much of the eye area as possible. Novelty tinted glasses do not protect against UV radiation and are not recommended.

6. Staff WHS and role modelling

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

- wear sun protective hats, clothing and sunglasses when outside
- apply SPF 30 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.

7. Curriculum

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

Policy review

The school council and staff regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of the sun protection policy (at least every three years) and revise the policy when required.

Date of next policy review: June, 2026

Relevant resources

Sun protection times

The sun protection times show when the UV is forecast to be 3 and above. They can be accessed via the free SunSmart app, the free widget to place on your website (download via

<https://www.cancersa.org.au/cut-my-risk/sunsmart/resources/sunsmart-app-and-widget>), myuv.com.au,

in the weather section of the newspaper or the Bureau of Meteorology website

<http://www.bom.gov.au/sa/uv>.

Creating effective shade

This online shade audit tool allows you to assess whether your existing shade is adequate. It also helps you develop a list of practical recommendations to improve both built and natural shade. Visit <http://www.sunsmart.com.au/shade-audit>.

Generation SunSmart

Fun and interactive online sun protection modules for teachers, school nurses and year 6-9 students. Visit <http://www.generationsunsmart.com.au/>.

SunSmart millionaire

How SunSmart are you? An innovative online game-based resource for children aged 9-13 years that promotes the science behind the SunSmart message. Visit:

<https://app.education.nsw.gov.au/rap/resource/access/a0d1bab8-c857-4bf6-9b95-640d3776b20d/1>

SunSmart Hat-Wearing Toolkit

Leads staff through simple steps, with useful tips and resources to reinforce current SunSmart hat-wearing behavior to reach 100% compliance or to phase out baseball caps. Visit

<https://www.cancersa.org.au/prevention/sunsmart/sunmart-resources/hat-wearing-toolkit>

