



Developed & endorsed by Governing Council, 2023

This policy applies to all school events 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 in the first 10 years of life is a major factor in determining future skin cancer risk. Too little UV from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels. Vitamin D is essential for healthy bones and muscles, and for general health.

Objectives

The SunSmart Policy has been developed to:

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

Staff are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times on the BOM website or SunSmart app each day to support the implementation of this policy. The sun protection policy is implemented for Terms 1,3 and 4 and when UV levels are 3 and above for all outdoor school activities.

A combination of sun protection measures are considered when planning outdoor events e.g. camps, excursions, sporting activities and swimming carnivals.

Volunteers and parents are encouraged to participate in SunSmart behaviours when attending or assisting outdoor school activities.



Melaleuca Park PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Clothing

Appropriate 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, shorts and t-shirts for outdoor swimming. Students who do not have appropriate sun protective clothing are asked to play in the COLA's (covered outdoor learning areas).

Sunscreen

- The school supplies SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for staff and student's use.
- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours when outdoors (e.g. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen buddies).

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 in Terms 1, 3 & 4 and when UV levels are 3 and above. Baseball or peak caps are not acceptable. Students who do not have appropriate hats are asked to play in the COLA's (covered outdoor learning areas).

Shade

- A shade audit is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.
- The school council makes sure there is a sufficient number of shelters and trees providing shade in the school grounds, particularly in areas where students congregate e.g. 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.
- 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 Covered Outdoor Learning Areas (COLA).



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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 to protect against ocular UV damage. Novelty tinted glasses do not protect against UV radiation and are not recommended.

Curriculum

- Programs on skin cancer prevention and vitamin D are included in the curriculum for all year levels.
- Outdoor activities are scheduled to minimize exposure to peak UV radiation where possible.
- A combination of sun protection measures are considered when planning outdoor activities such as excursion and water-based activities.
- Sports days are held on the last day of Term 1 and a combination of sun protection measures are implemented in line with this policy. Other outdoor events are held during term 2 or earlier in the day where practical.
- 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 enrolment packs.

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.

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.

Policy review: August 2026

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