

Walkerville Primary School SunSmart Policy



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

Rationale

Walkerville Primary School recognises that Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer globally and that children are particularly vulnerable to UV-related harm. Our SunSmart Policy aims to minimise UV exposure and instil lifelong sun protection behaviours.

Purpose

This policy sets out our school's commitment to:

- Protecting all students, staff, and visitors from over-exposure to harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation.
- Ensuring ample shaded outdoor areas.
- Encouraging and supporting students to be independent in their sun protection behaviours.
- Meeting legal and departmental requirements for duty of care and workplace health and safety (WHS).

Implementation

- When:
 - Sun protection practices are compulsory in Terms 1 & 4, and in Terms 2 & 3 whenever the UV Index is 3 or higher, during all outdoor activities.
 - Daily, local sun protection times are displayed using the school's SunSmart UV widget.
- Where:
 - This policy applies to all school activities, on-site and off-site, including excursions, camps, sporting events, and school functions.

Procedures

1. Physical environment

- Ample shade is provided and maintained across areas of high use, such as playgrounds, assembly, and spectator areas.
- Planning for new facilities and grounds improvements will prioritise shade provision.
- Students are regularly encouraged to make use of shade during outdoor activities.

2. Sun Protective Dress Code

Clothing:

- All students and staff must wear cool, loose-fitting, sun-protective clothing (with collars and elbow-length sleeves; dresses, shorts, or pants of appropriate length).
- Rash vests or t-shirts are required for outdoor swimming and water-based activities.

Hats:

- All students and staff are required to wear broad-brimmed, bucket, or legionnaire hats that protect the face, neck, and ears during outdoor activity.
- Caps and visors are not permitted. Students without appropriate hats will be asked to remain in shaded areas.

Sunscreen:

- SPF50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen must be used for all outdoor activities.



- Students are encouraged to bring their own; accessible sunscreen is provided by the school in learning areas, at events and for off-site activities.
- Reminders and scheduled prompts are used to ensure correct application: 20 minutes before outdoor activity and every two hours, or more often if swimming or sweating.

Sunglasses:

- All students and staff should wear close-fitting, wrap-around sunglasses (meeting AS/NZS 1067:2016, Category 2, 3, or 4) whenever outdoors.

3.Support for Medical and Special Needs

- The school will provide enhanced sun protection strategies for students or staff with medical conditions, medication requirements, or increased UV sensitivity.
- Families and staff are requested to inform leadership to enable planning of these adjustments.

3. Staff Role-Modelling & WHS

- All staff must model practical sun protection measures, including hats, appropriate clothing, sunglasses, and sunscreen.
- Staff to access department-provided sun-safe personal protective equipment (PPE) reimbursement procedure to confirm eligibility.
- UV risk management is included in all school, camp, and excursion planning.
- SunSmart information forms part of all staff induction and handbooks.

4. Curriculum

- Sun safety and UV protection are embedded in curriculum across all year levels, especially Health & Physical Education.
- Teachers are encouraged to access SunSmart teaching resources and professional learning.
- Student leadership and peer support are promoted in SunSmart practices (e.g., UV monitoring, reminders, sunscreen stations).

5. School and Community Partnership

- SunSmart behaviours are promoted regularly and clearly to the school community via newsletters, the website, staff meetings, school assemblies, and during enrolment.
- All visitors and volunteers are asked to comply with school sun protection measures while on-site, including recommended clothing, hats, sunglasses, sunscreen, and use of shade.

Communication and Availability

- The SunSmart Policy is available on the school website and through the front office.
- Key policy points are displayed in classrooms, common areas, and communicated routinely (e.g., start of each term, in newsletters).

Further Information

- Any queries regarding this policy or requests for enhanced sun protection for specific students or staff should be directed to the principal or WHS representative.

Monitoring and review

- The school council, staff and students/SRC monitor and review the effectiveness of our SunSmart policy (at least every three years) and revise the policy when required.
- SunSmart policy updates and requirements will be made available to staff, families, students and visitors.
- The school's SunSmart policy is easily accessible to staff, students and parents via the school website.

Please note: Certain health conditions and medications mean some people are more sensitive to UV radiation and need to use sun protection at all times regardless of the UV levels. Please make sure your policy includes the particular needs of these children and staff at your school. For further information visit [Risk factors for skin cancer](#)