



SKIN PROTECTION AND INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

This policy applies to students at Linden Park Primary School whilst at school, participating in a school activity away from the school grounds; or while travelling to or from school or a school activity, students attending Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) and Vacation Care programmes, school staff and volunteers at Linden Park Primary School.

Rationale

There are times when inclement weather such as high temperatures, heavy rain, wind or other weather events impact on student, staff and visitor safety, health and wellbeing therefore it is important to follow inclement weather procedures to protect staff, students and volunteers from extreme weather.

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 the 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 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.
- assist students to be responsible for their own sun protection.
- ensure families and new staff are informed of the school's sun protection policy.

School implementation

The school uses a combination of sun protection measures for all outdoor activities **during terms 1, 3 and 4 and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above at other times**. A combination of skin protection measures are considered when planning outdoor events e.g. camps, excursions, sporting activities and swimming carnivals.

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

On days where the current temperature reaches 36°C or higher, there is heavy rain or strong winds, students will remain inside at playtime and/or PE lessons under adequate teacher supervision. This will follow inclement weather procedures or be determined by leadership staff as required.

As part of WHS UV risk controls and role modelling, when the UV is 3 and above staff will model the expectations around sun safety that are applicable to children.



OSHC and vacation care implementation times

Before school care: sun protection is not required as the UV radiation levels are rarely above 3 during this time. During terms 1 and 4 it is recommended to apply sunscreen to assist with sun protection for the remainder of the day.

After school care: sun protection is required during terms 1 and 4, and whenever the UV is 3 and above at other times. Staff are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times to determine if sun protection measures are required during terms 2 and 3.

Vacation care: sun protection is required for all outdoor activities from 1 August to 30 April, and whenever the UV is 3 and above at other times.

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 provide their own SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen. The school supplies SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for staff and students' use, located in the Front office. If wearing sunscreen, it is applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours if remaining outdoors.

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 with a deep crown and a brim width of 6cms, as per the uniform policy, when UV levels are forecast to reach 3 or higher and during all PE lessons. Baseball or peak caps are not acceptable.

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
- 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 and other outdoor events to be held during term 2 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 play in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.

Sunglasses (optional)

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.





Legislation

This policy relates to the following National Law and Regulations:

- **Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010**
 - Section 167 – Protection from harm and hazards
- **Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011**
 - Regulation 100 – Risk assessment must be conducted before excursion
 - Regulation 113 – Outdoor space–natural environment
 - Regulation 114 – Outdoor space–shade
 - Regulation 168: Policies and procedures (2)(a)(ii)–sun protection
 - Regulation 170 – Policies and procedures to be followed
 - Regulation 171 – Policies and procedures to be kept available
 - Regulation 172 – Notification of change to policies or procedures.
- **Work Health and Safety Act 2012**

National Quality Standards (OSHC)

All of the following SunSmart procedures link to:

- **Quality area 2: Children’s health and safety.**

There are also links to:

- **Quality area 1: Educational program and practice**
- **Quality area 3: Physical environment**
- **Quality area 5: Relationships with children**
- **Quality area 6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities**
- **Quality area 7: Governance and leadership.**

Relevant resources

- <https://www.cancersa.org.au/cut-my-risk/sunsmart/resources/sunsmart-app-and-widget>
- myuv.com.au
- <http://www.bom.gov.au/sa/uv>.
- Online shade audit tool: <http://www.sunsmart.com.au/shade-audit>.
- Fun and interactive online sun protection modules for teachers, school nurses and year six to nine students <http://www.generationsunsmart.com.au/>.
- <https://app.education.nsw.gov.au/rap/resource/access/a0d1bab8-c857-4bf6-9b95-640d3776b20d/1>
- <https://www.cancersa.org.au/prevention/sunsmart/sunsmart-resources/hat-wearing-toolkit>