



Sunsmart Policy



Blackwood Primary School Mission Statement

An IB school valuing, supporting and inspiring a community of lifelong learners

The Australian population has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world. Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun and much of the damage occurs during childhood and adolescence. Being sun smart, reduces the life threatening but preventable dangers of skin cancer.

Schools have an obligation both to inform students of the dangers of exposure to the sun and to have preventive measures as part of their programs.

AIMS

The aims of the Blackwood Primary School Sun Smart Policy are to promote among students, staff and parents:

- a positive attitude towards skin protection
- lifestyle practices which can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer and the number of related deaths
- personal responsibility for and decision making about skin protection

PURPOSE

This SunSmart 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 our school's strategies to meet its duty of care and occupational health and safety obligations to minimise harmful UV exposure for students, staff and visitors.

PROCEDURES

- To assist with the implementation of this policy, staff and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times via the free [SunSmart app](#), or at sunsmart.org.au. Daily UV will be displayed in the staffroom via 'Daily Notices'.
- The sun protection measures listed are used for all outdoor activities during the **daily local sun protection times** during terms 1, 3 and 4 and whenever the UV radiation level is 3 and above at other times.

The sun protection times are a forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology for the time of day UV levels are forecast to reach 3 or higher. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types. In South Australia, UV levels regularly reach 3 or higher from start of August to the end of April.



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RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities outlined in this policy are for implementation when the UV is 3 and above.

Students:

- bucket or legionnaire type hat whenever they are involved in outside activities during Terms 1, 3 and 4 and whenever the UV radiation is 3 and above at other times.
- those without a hat will remain under the front verandah or in shaded areas designated by staff.
- will be encouraged to provide and apply their own SPF 30 or higher, broad spectrum water resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors and to re-apply it every two hours when outdoors. This action should be more frequent if swimming or perspiring. Sunscreens should not be shared with other students.
- will be encouraged to wear appropriate clothing for adequate skin protection when out of doors including going to and from school. This means wearing shirts with collars and at least elbow length sleeves, and longer style shorts/skirts. Students who do not have appropriate clothing will be asked to play in a suitable area protected by the sun.

Staff:

- at their discretion, will be encouraged to schedule outdoor activities outside of the peak UV times of the day whenever possible, or conduct activities in the shade/indoors where possible.
- responsible for Physical Education programs should ensure students wear a hat and that precautions are taken against sun exposure.
- will be required to take their outside activities in a shaded area.
- will act as role models and for work health and safety wear sun protective hats, clothing, sunglasses and sunscreen and seek shade where possible.
- will incorporate sun protection awareness information into school programs and as part of units of inquiry and/or Health Curriculum across R-7.
- will consider a combination of skin protection measures when planning outdoor events e.g. camps, excursions and sporting activities
- will regularly remind the school community about this policy through both class and school newsletters.

Parents:

- on enrolment of their child at Blackwood Primary School, will be provided with a copy of this policy.
- will be expected to provide a suitable hat and clothing, in accordance with the uniform policy, for their child's use in all school related outdoor activities. Hat and uniform samples are on display at the school and available from the Uniform Shop.
- will be encouraged to provide SPF 30 or higher, broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for their child's use at school.
- and visitors are encouraged to act as positive role models for their children by practising skin protection behaviours.



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Sports coaches and Team Managers:

- will be positive role models with regard to sun and heat protective behaviours.
- will use and direct children to shaded areas in all possible/appropriate instances.
- will inform children under their care of the need for fluid intake and sources of cool water.

Uniform Shop:

- will have appropriate clothing and head-wear on sale.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

- The Governing Council and staff monitor and review the effectiveness of the SunSmart policy and revise the policy when required (at least once every three years) by completing a policy review and membership renewal with SunSmart at [sunsmart.org.au](https://www.sunsmart.org.au).
- The SunSmart policy is available to staff, students, families and visitors.

REFERENCES

- DECS Administration Instruction and Guidelines for Schools. (Section 3 Paragraph 88)
- DECS Occupational Health, Safety & Welfare Manual.
- Cancer Council SA
- SunSmart Website, <https://www.sunsmart.org.au/>
- SunSmart 'Sample SunSmart Policy for Schools' policy



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DOCUMENT HISTORY

Policy Prepared: Sept. 1998

Reviewed: Sept 2001, May 2003, Aug 2006, Aug 2007, September 2010 June 2013, June 2016

Version	Revision Date	Summary of Major Changes
1	May 2018	
2	September 2020	Deleted reference to Terms 1, 3 and 4 and added when UV is 3 or above Added purpose and procedures and more information to policy review
3	December 2020	To meet SA SunSmart criteria and the 'Inclement Weather and Sun Protection Procedure' returned reference to Terms 1, 3 and 4 and when the UV radiation levels are 3 and above at other times. Updated information about average UV levels in SA, timeframe for sunscreen application and Cancer Council SA website details.

NEXT REVIEW DATE: January 2022

DOCUMENT APPROVAL

	Required	Date
Teaching Staff	Yes	2019
Governing Council	Yes	9 December 2020
Other: Student Action Team	Yes	<i>Due January 2021</i>