



Thiele Primary School

Sun Protection Policy

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 major 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 when UV is 3 and above does not put people at risk of vitamin D deficiency.

Scope

This policy applies to all members of the Campus school community including students and staff.

Objective

The sun protection policy has been developed to:

- Encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever the UV Index reaches 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.

Procedures

Policy Implementation

- Staff are encouraged to check the daily sun protection times each morning for our location (Noarlunga) using the free SunSmart Global UV app, SunSmart widget, myuv.com.au or the Bureau of Meteorology website to support the implementation of sun protection at the school.
- 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.
- Agree to undertake policy reviews regularly (at least every three years) with Cancer Council SA to ensure policy and practice stay up to date with the national standards and the Department for Education requirements.

Scheduling

- A combination of sun protection measures are considered when planning outdoor activities such as camps, excursions, sporting activities and water-based activities using each site's risk assessments.
- Care is taken during the peak UV radiation times, and outdoor activities are scheduled outside of these times, where possible or in the shade.
- If the temperature is 36 degrees or over, the children will stay inside at recess and lunchtime (except if they need to go to the canteen).
- Peak UV times of the day are when the UV is highest during the daytime and differ from the local sub protection times issued by the Bureau of Meteorology, which change daily. For an implementation guide peak UV times of the day are 11:00am to 3:00pm during daylight savings and 10:00am to 2:00pm during non-daylight savings.
- Sports days and other outdoor events are held during term 2 or earlier in the day/at twilight where practical.

Sun protection measures

Hats

- All students and staff are required to wear a broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hat which protects the face, ears, and neck. Baseball caps are not acceptable.

Clothing

- Appropriate sun protective clothing is included in the school uniform/dress code and sports uniform.
- The school uniform items are made of a closely woven material and include tops with collars and longer-style skirts, dresses and shorts.
- Rash tops or t-shirts over bathers are required for outdoor swimming activities.

Sunscreen

- Have available SPF 50+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for staff and student use on days where children are at outdoor events. (E.g. Sports Day, Aquatics, beach excursions etc.)
- Parents/carers will apply and administer sunscreen before or upon arriving at school or at the request of the individual sites.

Shade

- Staff are to use available areas of shade for outdoor activities as much as possible and actively encourage students to play in the shade.
- Students who are not wearing a SunSmart hat or appropriate clothing are asked to play in the shade or return indoors.
- A shade audit is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade. (this includes quarterly playground audits and inspection of shade cloths as well as annual tree audits)
- The school Governing Council ensures there are sufficient numbers of shelters, portable shade structures and trees providing shade in the school grounds, particularly in areas where students frequent e.g. canteen, outdoor lesson areas and popular play areas.
- In consultation with the school Governing Council, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.

Staff WHS and role modelling

For work health and safety and role modelling, when the UV is 3 and above, staff are required to practice SunSmart behaviours including

- wearing sun protective hats, clothing, and sunglasses when outside, applying SPF 50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen, seeking shade whenever possible.
- Families and visitors are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures when participating in or attending outdoor school activities.
- Teachers responsible for classes before an outdoor activity are to remind students about the wearing of hats and the re-application of sunscreen 20 minutes before (E.g. class teachers before attending PE, teachers supervising classes at eating times).
- Include information on excursion notes about skin protection measures.

Learning and Development

Sun protection education is incorporated into the curriculum for all year levels (or) at least every second year.

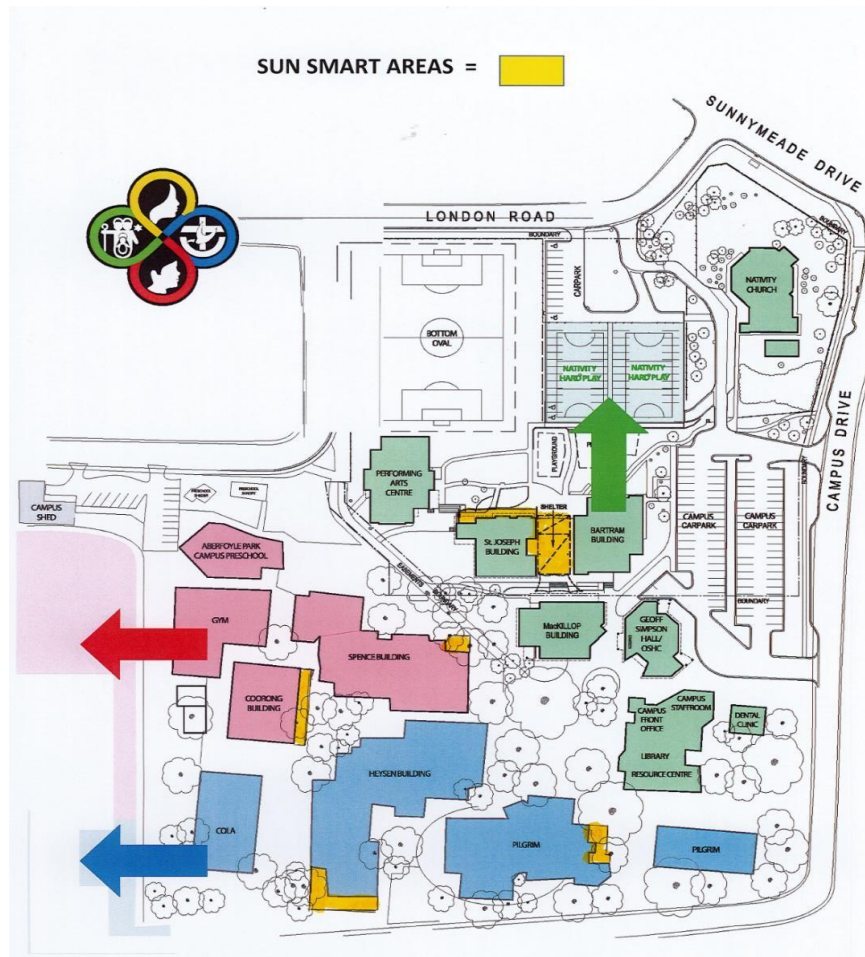
Policy Promotion

Sun protection information and the sun protection policy is 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.

Reinforce regularly the Skin Protection Policy in a positive way through newsletters, parent meetings, and student and teacher activities.

Related documents

Map of Campus Sunsmart – No hat No play areas



Twinkl Curriculum Resource

Free sun protection curriculum resources suitable for Foundation to Year 6 to be used in classroom teaching and learning activities. Visit: Foundation – Year 6 sun safety curriculum resources [SunSmart Literature Activities](#)
Literature resource activities for over 20 picture books with various themes related to the sun, weather, the seasons, sun protection and skin. Visit: www.generationsunsmart.com.au/sunsmartliterature-activities/

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/sunsmart-resources/hat-wearing-toolkit>