



West End State School



SUNSMART POLICY

West End State School's SunSmart Policy applies to all events on and off-site.

Purpose

This SunSmart Policy provides guidelines to:

- Ensure all students, staff and visitors are protected from over exposure to UV radiation;
- Ensure that the outdoor environment provides shade for students and staff;
- Ensure students are encouraged to develop independent sun protection skills to help them be responsible for their own sun protection;
- Support duty of care requirements and
- Support appropriate Occupational Health Safety (OHS) strategies to minimize UV risk and associated harms for children, staff and visitors.

Background

Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life.

Legislation and Standards

- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- Education and Training Reform Act 2006: Sch. 5 Reg. 1 (1.2)

Procedures

- To assist with the implementation of this policy, staff and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times via the link on the school's website to sunsmart.com.au or myuv.com.au
- The sun protection measures listed are used for all outdoor activities during the **daily local sun protection times** (whenever UV levels are 3 or higher), typically all year in Queensland.



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Healthy Physical Environment

1. *Seek shade*

- Our Parents and Citizens Association is endeavoring to increase the number of shade shelters across the school by providing shade in high use areas and where there is currently no shade e.g. where students can sit quietly outside and be protected from the sun, where sports are played, where outdoor lessons are conducted and other popular areas where children congregate.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning all other outdoor activities.
- Sporting activities and other outdoor activities are organized to avoid the peak UV times.
- Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
- Students who do not have appropriate hats are required to sit at an undercover area for the duration of playtime known as the 'no hat no play' area.
- In consultation with the School Council, shade provision is considered in plans for all future buildings and grounds.
- A shade assessment is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.
- The pool has a shade shelter over two thirds of the pool and lessons are conducted under this shelter when possible.
- Posters are displayed in classrooms and around the school.

Healthy Social Environment

2. *Slip on sun protective clothing*

- Our school uniform has been designed with sun safety in mind. The fabric used is loose fitting and made of densely woven fabric. The shorts are a longer length and the shirts have collars and a longer short sleeve. Long sleeve shirts with collars are also available.
- All students and teachers are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears (broad-brimmed) whenever they are outside.
- Whilst at sporting events, children are to wear hats at all times. When this is not possible due to the sport, sunscreen must be worn.
- Sun shirts must be worn for swimming lessons and beach activities whilst at camps etc.

3. *Slop on sunscreen*

- Children are advised to apply sunscreen before coming to school and to re-apply before any outside activities. Sunscreen is supplied in all classrooms, by the school, for this purpose.
- Sunscreen should be applied at least 20 minutes (where possible) before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours or more frequently if sweating or swimming.
- Children apply sunscreen whilst at swimming lessons as well as wearing sun shirts.
- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminders from teachers and the supply of sunscreen by the school in all classrooms, SunSmart posters).



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4. *Slide on sunglasses (if practical)*

- Where practical children able to wear close-fitting wrap-around sunglasses that cover as much of the eye area as possible.

Learning and Skills

- Programs on sun protection are included in the curriculum for all year levels. Where this is not a unit of study, focus is brought to sun safety when discussing general safety and wellbeing, environmental and weather factors etc.

Engaging children, educators, staff and families

- SunSmart behavior is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through the school website/intranet, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment and new staff orientation.
- As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, staff, families and visitors wear a protective hat, suitable clothing and, if practical, sunglasses, apply sunscreen and seek shade whenever possible.

Monitoring and review

- The school Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) and staff monitor and review the effectiveness of the SunSmart Policy and review the policy every three years or earlier should there be any change to current shade conditions at West End State School.
- Complete the policy review and membership renewal with SunSmart at sunsmart.com.au
- SunSmart policy updates and requirements will be made available to staff, families and visitors.

Review Date: March 2020