

SunSmart Policy

Aim

This policy aims to protect the school community of Brookfield State School from the harmful effects of UV radiation exposure.

Involvement

This policy applies to all employees, students, visitors, contracted services, families and volunteers of Brookfield State School while on the premises and involved in off-site excursions and events.

Rationale

Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Skin cancers account for 80 per cent of all new cancers diagnosed each year in Australia, making it by far the most common type of cancer diagnosed.

Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in life. Given students and employees are at school during peak UV times, schools play a major role in providing an environment where policies and procedures can positively influence long-term SunSmart behaviour.

With this in mind, schools need to take into account the need to support students, employees, parents and visitors to the school by providing and promoting a SunSmart environment.

Procedures

- To assist with implementation of this policy, employees and students are encouraged to access daily local sun protection times via the SunSmart app, SunSmart widget on the school website, or sunsmart.com.au
- Whenever practical, outdoor activities are scheduled to minimise time outdoors during periods when the UV is high to extreme (UV 6 or above)

Healthy physical environment

1. Seek shade

- Provide a variety of shade (i.e. built, natural and portable) in all areas where students congregate including areas for lunch, outdoor teaching and sport.
- Encourage students to use available shade.
- Consider shade availability when planning all outdoor events and excursions.
- Conduct regular shade assessments to determine future needs.

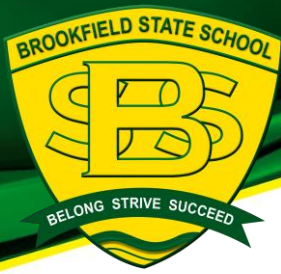
Healthy social environment

1. Slip on sun protective clothing

- Make school uniforms SunSmart as per Cancer Council Queensland recommendations. This includes shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts, and long pants.
- Encourage rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming.

2. Slap on a hat

- Ensure hats worn by students cover the face, neck and ears such as broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaire style. Peak caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative.
- The only exemptions when playing sport are when a hat reduces visibility or interferes with activity skills and therefore poses a risk to students safety; or when wearing a hat is not possible because other headwear is required to be worn for religious or safety reasons. Under these circumstances, students may remove their hats for the duration of the activity, ensuring they have applied sunscreen to uncovered skin (ideally 20 minutes) prior to participating.



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3. Slop on sunscreen

- Make available SPF 50 or SPF 50+ broad spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen or encourage students to supply their own.
- Encourage students to apply sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors and to reapply every 2 hours when outdoors for extended periods.

4. Slide on sunglasses (optional)

- Where practical, students are encouraged to wear close-fitting, wrap-around sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard AS1067.

Learning opportunities

- Include learning activities that promote sun protection in the curriculum for all year levels. Sun safety is formally taught as part of the Australian Curriculum through Health and Physical Education.
- Staff include the risk of exposure to UVR in their curriculum activity risk assessments for outdoor activities, including ensuring adequate shade is available for outdoor activities where possible.
- Staff are informed about the school's sun safety policy and its requirements on induction.
- Teachers and staff are encouraged to complete Cancer Council's free online learning modules (Generation SunSmart).

Role modelling by staff

- Ask employees to role model good sun protection behaviours when outside, including:
 - Wearing sun-safe hats, clothing and sunglasses.
 - Applying SPF50 or SPF 50+ broad spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen.
 - Seeking shade whenever possible.

Engaging the school community

- Regularly reinforce and promote SunSmart behaviour to the whole school community (students, employees, families and visitors) via newsletters, website/intranet, social media, school assemblies, parent/teacher meetings and student enrolment/staff orientation.
- Encourage families and visitors to role model sun protection behaviours when involved in school activities.

Compliance

- If students do not have a hat to wear, we implement the "No Hat, No Play Outside" rule and students are required to play in an undercover (solid cover) area or in the Library.

Timing and Review

- Policy effective as at February, 2025
- Policy to be reviewed in February, 2026

Signed: *Leanne Duncan*

Leanne Duncan
(Brookfield State School Principal)