

Andrews Creek Primary School – Sun Protection Policy

At Andrews Creek Primary School being Sun Smart is an integral part of our Health learning practices.

Over-exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation in childhood and adolescence is a major risk factor for developing skin cancer later in life. Schools can play a significant role toward reducing the life time risk of skin cancer.

The sun protection policy has been developed to ensure that all students, teachers and the school community are protected from skin damage caused by harmful UV radiation from the sun.

Sun protection is required when UV levels are 3 and above. In Tasmania, the UV is 3 and above from September to April. **Therefore, schools need to implement sun protection measures from the beginning of the school year until the end of April and again from the beginning of September until the end of the school year. Implementing sun protection measures throughout Terms 1 and 4 only is insufficient to protect against UVR risks.**

We believe that staff and students need to learn to live responsibly in the sun and take opportunities to educate safe behaviour.

Objectives

- Ensure staff and students are protected from over-exposure to UV;
- Educate staff and students on appropriate sun protection;
- Ensure the outdoor environment provides shade for staff and students;
- Support duty of care and regulatory requirements; and
- Support appropriate WHS strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harms for staff and students.

Strategies

- Staff are encouraged to check the sun protection times on a daily basis at <http://www.cancer.org.au/tas>, <http://www.bom.gov.au/tas/uv/>, www.myuv.com or on the free SunSmart Global UV app.
- Staff and students use a combination of sun protection measures from September to April, when average peak UV levels in Tasmania reach 3 and above:

1. Clothing

- Sun-safe clothing is part of our school and sports uniform. This includes shirts with collars, sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts and rash vests or T-shirts for outdoor swimming.

- Clothing exposing large amounts of shoulder and upper torso eg. singlets, tank tops and strappy dresses are not considered suitable.
- Students without appropriate covering clothing will be asked to use shaded areas or suitable areas protected from the sun.

2. Sunscreen

- The school supplies SPF50 or SPF50+, broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for staff and student use in places such as classrooms and around the school yard.
- Where possible, SPF50 or SPF50+ broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen is available for use at the school. Students are also encouraged to provide their own.
- Sunscreen is applied 20 minutes before going outdoors. If outdoors for extended periods sunscreen is reapplied every 2 hours (more frequently if swimming or sweating).
- Sunscreen should be stored in a cool, dry place and the expiry date monitored.
- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors, with time for this scheduled into the daily routine.
- Students and staff are encouraged to apply sunscreen before coming to school.

3. Hats

- All students and staff are required to wear sun-safe hats that protect the face, neck and ears when outside. Recommended sun-safe hats include legionnaire, broad-brimmed and bucket hats. Baseball caps and visors do not offer enough protection and are not recommended.
- Students without an appropriate hat will be asked to use shaded areas or suitable areas protected from the sun.

4. Shade

- The school ensures there is enough shade in areas where students gather such as for eating, outdoor teaching and popular play areas. The use of existing shade areas is actively encouraged.
- Portable shade structures will be provided where appropriate (e.g at school athletic carnivals).
- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all outdoor activities. A shade audit is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.
- Students without a sun-safe hat or clothing must remain in the shade.
- The school council/board ensures shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.

5. Sunglasses

- When practical, students are encouraged to wear close-fitting wrap-around sunglasses that comply with Australian Standards AS1067 (Category 2, 3 or 4) and cover as much of the eye area as possible.

- **Staff OHS, role modelling and education**
 - As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, when UV is 3 and above staff will role model sun protection behaviours when outside by using the combination of sun protection measures outlined above.
 - Families and visitors are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.
 - Programs on skin cancer prevention are included in teaching programs for all year levels. Staff are supported to access resources, tools and professional learning to enhance their knowledge and capacity to promote sun protection education across the curriculum.
 - Students are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures at the school including taking leadership roles in managing sun protection for the whole school community e.g. accessing daily sun protection times, hat reminders and supporting sunscreen application.
 - SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, meetings, assemblies and upon enrolment.

- **Planning**
 - Ensure SunSmart policy is reflected in the planning of all outdoor events and excursions.
 - Where possible, outdoor activities will be planned away from the middle of the day during the period September to April (when UV levels reach 3 and above).

- **Review**
 - School's sun protection policy will be submitted for review to Cancer Council Tasmania once every three years, for updating as new evidence becomes available. SunSmart policy updates and requirements will be made available to staff, families and visitors.
 - The school's SunSmart policy is easily accessible to staff, students and parents.
 - As registered SunSmart members, we have submitted a copy of our policy to SunSmart and commit to implementing the sun protection measures as documented.

***This Position Statement was reviewed and updated in September 2024 following input from Cancer Council Tasmania
It supersedes the position statement previously adopted by the School Council 2004.
Next review date: September 2027***

This information is based on current evidence available at time of review. Last updated: September 2024

For more information:

e: sunsmart@cancertas.org.au w: www.cancertas.org.au/prevent-cancer/sunsmart/

Relevant documents/links

Department of Education: Sun Protection Policy (Doc ID: TASED-4-5152)
Tasmanian Catholic Education Commission: Workplace Health and Safety Policy
Work Health and Safety Act 2012 Tasmania

<https://www.education.tas.gov.au/documentcentre/Documents/Sun-Protection-Policy.pdf>

<http://www.cancertas.org.au/prevent-cancer/sunsmart/>

<http://www.cancertas.org.au/vitamin-d/>

<http://www.generationsunsmart.com.au/>

<http://www.sunsmart.com.au/uv-sun-protection/uv/uv-widget>

<http://www.sunsmart.com.au/communities/early-childhood-primary-schools/resources-primary-early-childhood>

This Policy relates to the following Legislation and Standard:
[Work Health and Safety Act](#)