

SUN PROTECTION POLICY

Please note, this policy must be read in conjunction with other relevant policy and procedural information provided on the approved provider's website, including:

- [Inclement weather and sun protection \(edi.sa.edu.au\)](http://edi.sa.edu.au)

Sun protection in schools and early childhood education services

Rationale

At Loxton North School we believe that all children and staff have a right to a safe and secure environment. Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world and one out of every two people develops some form of skin cancer in their lifetime. Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Much of the damage occurs during childhood and adolescence. Research suggests that severe sunburn is a contributor to skin cancer and other forms of skin damage such as wrinkles, sunspots, blemishes and premature ageing. Most skin damage is therefore, preventable.

Too little UV radiation from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels. Sensible sun protection when UV is 3 and above does provide the best natural source of vitamin D. Vitamin D is essential for the development of strong bones and muscles.

Purpose

The purpose of our policy is to ensure that all children, educators and parents are whenever possible, protected from skin damage caused by the harmful ultra-violet rays of the sun whilst at preschool.

All department school sites and early childhood education and care services must have a sun protection policy in effect for school Terms 1, 3 and 4 and whenever ultra violet (UV) radiation levels reach 3 or above.

Aims

- To promote positive attitudes toward skin protection.
- To raise awareness of the potential damage that exposure to the sun can cause, in particular between 10 am to 3.00 pm.
- Children and young people are encouraged to be responsible for their own sun protection.

Skin Protection Strategies

HATS and CLOTHING

- The wearing of a named hat outdoors will be compulsory. All children are required to have a hat in their bag every day – NO HAT, NO PLAY.
- Parents will be encouraged to provide hats that satisfy the Cancer Council of SA guidelines so as to shade the face, back of the neck and ears. Examples are broad brimmed, legionnaire or bucket style hat with

a minimum of 5cm brim (a recommendation by the Cancer Council SA). Baseball or peak caps are not acceptable.

- If children do not have the appropriate hat, we will encourage them to play indoors. In the event that children must go outdoors as part of the curriculum a loan hat will be provided to them or they will be encouraged to play in shaded areas.
- Sun protective clothing is included in the school uniform/dress code. The clothing is cool, loose fitting and made of closely woven fabric. It includes shirts with collars, longer style dresses and shorts.

SUNSCREEN

- A supply of SPF 30+ broad spectrum water-resistant sunscreen will be kept at the preschool for use when required and be readily available for parents and caregivers to use with their children. Parents may provide their own SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen.
- Sunscreen is applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours if remaining outdoors.
- Families with children who have naturally very dark skin are encouraged to discuss their vitamin D requirements with their GP or pediatrician.

SHADE

- Care is taken during the peak UV radiation times, and outdoor activities are scheduled outside of these times or in the shade where possible. Sports days and other outdoor events to be held during term two or earlier in the day where practical.
- Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.

CURRICULUM

- Programs on skin cancer prevention are included in the curriculum.
- Sun Smart behaviour is regularly reinforced and 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.



Staff will:

- act as role models by wearing protective hats and appropriate clothing. This behaviour will be modelled both at the preschool and on excursions,
- seek shade whenever possible during outdoor activities,
- include information about the importance of skin protection in the educational program for the children; and
- ensure all children effectively apply SPF 30+ broad spectrum water-resistant sunscreen provided by the preschool before playing outdoors in the afternoon in terms one and four or if the UV index is forecast to be moderate or above.
- Make shade provision a priority in the preschool's forward planning i.e. plant shade trees and cover play areas and sandpit with suitable structures.

More comprehensive information can be found at:

[Resources for Early Childhood Centres - Cancer Council \(cancersa.org.au\)](http://cancersa.org.au)

This policy will be shared with all new staff and families, and available on the website and in the preschool policies folder.

This policy will be reviewed bi-annually and conducted by staff, families and Governing Council.

Document history	Version	Date approved	Description of change	Next date review
	1.0	10/2019	Policy developed	10/2021
Review	2.0	08/2023	Policy reviewed and updated to comply with DfE and Cancer Council Sun Smart Policy	08/2025
Review	3.0	02/2025	Policy reviewed and updated	02/2027

Approved by Governing Council _____ **Principal's Signature** _____