



Introduction

Wanniassa School is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all students and staff. This document seeks to provide guidelines to minimize the adverse effects of UV exposure by encouraging students, staff and community members to observe safe, SunSmart behaviours. SunSmart practices are incorporated into all Wanniassa School programs and procedures.

Rationale

Our school aims to protect students and staff, as far as reasonably practicable, from the dangers associated with over-exposure to the sun's UV. Sun UV protection is recommended at all ages and a balance of UV exposure is important for health. Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Too little UV from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels. To reduce the risk of Vitamin D deficiency, The Cancer Council ACT does not recommend sun protection in June and July. The end of May is 'Hats Off Day' whilst the beginning of August is 'Hats On Again' for all of us. However sensible sun UV protection may still be warranted if spending extended period outdoors during these months.

Protective Clothing & Shade Provision

- All P-6 students are required to wear SunSmart hats when they are outside in the sun during the period of January-May and August-September. A SunSmart hat is a broad-brimmed hat, bucket hat, or legionnaire's cap.
- All 7-10 students will be strongly encouraged to wear SunSmart hats when they are outside in the sun during the period of January-May and August-September.
- K-6 Students who do not wear a SunSmart hat during play times will be directed to the covered outdoor learning area (COLA) on the Junior Campus. Preschool students will be provided with a clean spare hat for the session.
- Due to the dangers of choking associated with the cords on some hats, the school requests that these cords are removed from P-6 student hats unless they have a quick release function.
- In the interest of hygiene, spare hats are not available K-10 for loan.
- All uniform items are sun smart, uniform is required across P-10. On days where no uniform is required (carnivals, free dress days) all tops worn at school require sleeves. K-6 students will not be permitted to play outside if they are wearing singlets or shirts with cut off sleeves.
- All staff are encouraged to wear protective clothing when outside in the sun and to act as good role models.
- All students and staff will be required to wear a t-shirt or rash vest when attending all day outdoor swimming carnivals. Sunscreen will be provided by the school to all students and staff at outdoor events, camps and carnivals.

Sunscreen

- Broad spectrum 30+ sunscreen is available in preschool classrooms, and units on Junior Campus, and Student Services, PE staffroom and the front office on Senior Campus.
- Parents are encouraged to ensure students have applied broad spectrum SPF 30 or higher sunscreen, on skin not protected by clothing, before school. Students are encouraged to bring sunscreen to school for re application.
- Children are supervised by the preschool staff when applying sunscreen at preschool.
- Students are given reminders to apply sunscreen 15-20 minutes prior to lunch break and outdoor activities during peak UV period of the day.
- If a child is allergic to sunscreen parents must notify the school via the medical form completed at the beginning of each year.

Outdoor Activities

- During extreme hot weather (35+ degrees Celsius), students will remain inside.
- The preschool outdoor program is adapted in accordance with the weather.
- Outdoor activities are kept to a minimum during days of high or extreme UV and where possible occur outside the peak hours (10am – 2pm EST, 11am – 3pm Daylight savings time).
- During terms 1 and 4 break times will be adjusted to provide the larger break during the morning.

Education, Communication & Evaluation

- Parents will be informed of the Sun Protection Procedures when they enrol their child at Wanniasa School.
- This policy is available online via the Wanniasa School website and upon request from Junior or Senior campus reception.
- Sun protection procedures are conveyed to new staff commencing at Wanniasa school and relief teachers at the commencement of employment.
- Where a student is not engaging with SunSmart procedures the school will communicate with a parent/carer via a phone call or note home.
- During school sports carnivals or other outdoor activities that may involve volunteers/visitors, the school will inform the visitors of our sun protection procedures and encourage them to act as good role models by adopting SunSmart behaviour. This will be done via the newsletter or when advertising the event.
- The school will review the Sun Protection Procedures regularly to ensure it complies with any new guidelines that may be published by the ACT Government Education Directorate or by the ACT Cancer Council

Professional Learning

Teachers and support staff who are responsible for supervising preschool to year 6 students outdoors and high school PE teachers will complete the Cancer Council SunSmart Professional Learning Online Modules.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Principal is responsible for the development of this procedure and to ensure positive reinforcement of the procedure occurs through regular reminders, for example via the school's Facebook page, newsletters, information nights and other communication channels.

Any concerns about the application of this policy or the policy itself, should be raised with:

- the school in the first instance;
- the Directorate's Liaison Unit on (02) 6205 5429;
- online at http://www.education.act.gov.au/contact_us;

Date of Publishing: September 2021

Date for Review: September 2025

Related Legislation

[Human Rights Act 2004](#)

[Work Health and Safety Act 2011](#)

Related Policy

Sun UV Protection for Students (ACT Education Directorate) 2015

Wanniassa School Uniform Policy 2020