



# SunSmart & Inclement Weather Policy

**Policy updated & approved by Leadership: 11 August 2025**

This policy applies to all school events and OSHC, both on and off-site.

## Rationale

At Port Noarlunga Primary School, we are committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all students and staff. This includes taking proactive measures to protect the school community from the harmful effects of extreme weather conditions, including UV radiation and inclement weather.

Exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation is the primary cause of skin cancer, which is one of the most preventable forms of cancer. Children are particularly vulnerable, as sun exposure during childhood and adolescence significantly increases the risk of developing skin cancer later in life. The implementation of effective sun protection strategies is therefore essential.

At the same time, we acknowledge the importance of maintaining healthy vitamin D levels. Sensible sun exposure is necessary for vitamin D production, which supports bone health, muscle function, and overall wellbeing. Research shows that when sun protection is used appropriately, particularly when the UV Index is 3 and above, it does not significantly compromise vitamin D levels.

This policy also considers the need to keep students and staff safe and comfortable during periods of inclement weather, such as extreme heat, rain, or storms. Guided by the Cancer Council SA's SunSmart recommendations and the Department for Education's Health, Safety and Wellbeing policies, our school aims to balance sun safety, physical health, and access to outdoor learning and play opportunities.

## Objectives

This SunSmart and Inclement Weather Policy aims to:

- Promote the consistent use of a combination of sun protection strategies by all members of the school community when the UV Index is 3 and above.
- Support the creation and maintenance of a safe and inclusive school environment by providing adequate shade and sun-safe outdoor spaces.
- Educate and empower students to take responsibility for their own sun protection and understand the importance of UV safety.
- Ensure that all families, staff, and visitors are informed about and supported to follow the school's sun protection procedures.
- Integrate sun and weather safety education across relevant areas of the curriculum and daily school routines.

## Legislation and Guidelines

- Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA)
- Education and Children's Services Act 2019 (SA)
- Department for Education Guidelines
- Cancer Council SA – SunSmart Schools and Early Childhood Program
- Bureau of Meteorology – UV Index Guidelines

## Procedures

Staff are encouraged to access the daily local UV forecast using the SunSmart app, [MyUV.com.au](https://myuv.com.au), or [bom.gov.au/uv](https://bom.gov.au/uv) to support the implementation of this policy.

The school and OSHC use a combination of sun protection strategies, including shade, protective clothing, hats, sunscreen, and scheduling, for all outdoor activities during:

- Terms 1, 3, and 4
- Term 2 when the UV Index is 3 and above

Sun protection is also considered when planning all outdoor events such as excursions, camps, sports days, and carnivals, regardless of the term.

### Out of School Hours Care (OSHC)

- **Before School Care**  
Sun protection is usually not required, as UV levels are rarely 3 or above during early morning hours.
- **After School Care**  
Sun protection is required during Terms 1, 3, and 4, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above at other times of the year.
- **Vacation Care**  
Sun protection is required for all outdoor activities from 1 August to 30 April, and whenever the UV Index is 3 and above outside of that period.

Staff are encouraged to check the daily local UV forecast to guide decision-making about outdoor activities and ensure appropriate sun protection is used when required.

## Clothing

Sun protective clothing is included in the school uniform/dress code and sports uniform. The clothing is cool, loose fitting and made of closely woven fabric. It includes shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts and rash tops or t-shirts for outdoor swimming.

## Sunscreen

Staff and students are encouraged to provide their own SPF 50+ or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen and apply before or upon arriving at school. Students are reminded to apply sunscreen at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapply every two hours. Sunscreen is available in the front office and most classrooms, if required. Sunscreen is also available where there is prolonged exposure to the sun such as at Beach Carnival and swimming lessons.

Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors; posters are visible, and information is communicated to the whole school through various channels such as assemblies, ClassDojo posts, classroom discussions, and digital platforms.

## Hats

All students and staff are required to wear a wide brimmed hat that protect their face, neck and ears whenever they are outside. Baseball or peak caps are not acceptable.

## Shade

- A shade audit is conducted regularly to assess the availability, quality, and location of shade throughout the school grounds.
- In partnership with the Governing Council, the school ensures that adequate shade is provided through permanent shelters and natural shade (trees), particularly in high-use areas such as the canteen, outdoor learning spaces, and popular play areas.
- Shade availability is a key consideration when planning all outdoor activities, including outdoor physical education lessons, sports days, and excursions.
- Plans for future buildings and grounds developments include consideration of improved shade provision, in consultation with the Governing Council.
- During peak UV times (typically 10:00 am to 2:00 pm), outdoor activities are scheduled in shaded areas or moved to earlier/later times where possible.
- Students are encouraged and reminded to use available shaded areas during outdoor play and learning.
- Students without a sun-safe hat or appropriate clothing are required to remain in shaded or indoor areas during outdoor activities. Where possible, a spare hat may be provided.
- Student leaders are involved in promoting SunSmart practices and monitoring shade usage.

## Staff, WHS and Role Modelling

As part of WHS, UV risk controls and role modelling, when the UV is 3 and above staff are expected to:

- wear sun protective hats, clothing and sunglasses when outside
- apply SPF 50+ or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen
- seek shade whenever possible.

Families and visitors are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures (e.g. sun protective clothing and hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and shade) when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.

## Curriculum

- Sun safety and skin cancer prevention education is embedded within the Health and Physical Education curriculum across all year levels, in line with the South Australian Curriculum: Health and Physical Education - Personal, Social and Community Health strand. Students learn about the importance of protective behaviours and how to make healthy, informed choices regarding UV exposure.
- SunSmart messages are regularly reinforced and promoted throughout the school community via a range of channels, including ClassDojo posts, the school website, staff meetings, school assemblies, classroom activities, and student enrolment packs.
- Sun protection is integrated into whole-school events, special days, and daily routines, supporting a culture of shared responsibility for health and wellbeing.

## Inclement Weather Procedures

Inclement weather refers to adverse environmental conditions that may affect the health and safety, of students and staff during school-based or off-site activities. These include, but are not limited to:

- Extreme high temperatures (36°C or above)
- High winds
- High UV Index (3 and above)
- Heavy rain, storms, hail, or lightning
- High humidity or severe dust
- Low temperatures or snow (where applicable)

All decisions regarding inclement weather are made with student and staff safety as the priority and are guided by the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) forecast for Noarlunga: [bom.gov.au/sa/forecasts/noarlunga.shtml](http://bom.gov.au/sa/forecasts/noarlunga.shtml)

## Hot Weather Guidelines (36°C and above)

When the predicted maximum temperature for Noarlunga is 36°C or higher:

### Outdoor Excursions and Camps

- The organising teacher will review the forecast the day prior and inform families of any changes (e.g. rescheduling, early return, transport adjustments).
- Excursions using air-conditioned transport and visiting air-conditioned venues may proceed.
- Camps may be modified to avoid heat exposure during peak UV hours.

### Swimming and Aquatics

- Swimming/aquatics are approved hot-weather activities under Department for Education guidelines.
- Sessions will proceed unless cancelled by the Centre due to safety concerns.

### Out of School Hours Sport

- Saturday morning sport will be cancelled if the BOM forecast for Noarlunga is 36°C or higher as of Friday evening.
- After school sport/activities will be cancelled based on the BOM forecast two nights prior to the event.

### School Events (e.g. Beach Carnivals, Walks, Sports Days)

- Events may be cancelled or modified.
- Families and external providers will be notified by the organising staff member.

### PE Lessons

- The air-conditioned gym will be prioritised for PE during extreme heat.
- The PE teacher has scheduling preference for indoor spaces on these days.

### Outdoor Play Breaks

- Students will remain indoors during lunch breaks and a modified recess break (if safe to do so) will occur in cases of:
  - Extreme heat ( $\geq 36^{\circ}\text{C}$ )
  - Wet weather or storms
  - Poor air quality (e.g. dust)

Hot weather supervision arrangements will be in place, including teacher release support for indoor duty. While the threshold is set at 36°C, decisions are also informed by real-time weather conditions, staff feedback, and the progression of heatwaves. In some cases, flexibility may be applied if the actual temperature differs significantly from the forecast. Staff will be notified by leadership if Hot Weather Procedures are activated on the day. Two sirens during break times indicate inclement weather and students and staff are required to move indoors.

### UV Safety

- When the UV Index is 3 or higher, sun protection strategies apply during all outdoor activities, in line with the school's SunSmart Policy.
- This includes access to shade, wearing sun-safe hats and clothing, and applying sunscreen.

## Policy Review

Staff and governing council review and monitor the effectiveness and implementation of our SunSmart policy and revise the policy when required.

**Date of next policy review is scheduled for January 2027.**