

# Guidelines for developing a school sun safety policy



## Introduction

This guideline provides strategies and considerations to inform consultation with the school community and develop the school's sun safety policy.

An [exemplar school sun safety policy](#) is available for the school to adopt or adapt in order to document their sun safety strategies.

The exemplar also highlights those strategies that the department requires schools to implement.

## Strategies and considerations

As outlined in the [Sun safety in state schools](#) procedure, schools are required to develop a comprehensive sun safety policy which addresses a broad range of strategies to minimise the risks associated with ultraviolet radiation (UVR) exposure.

Elements of the school's sun safety policy include:

- i. Clothing requirements
- ii. Shade provision and use
- iii. Education
- iv. Sunscreen provision
- v. Modelling sun safe behaviours
- vi. Cost considerations.

The following considerations provide the basis for consultation with the school community.

### (i) Clothing requirements

#### ***For consideration:***

- Does the current school uniform meet the [Australian Standard AS4399:2020 for sun protective clothing](#) (Australian Standard)?
- If the uniform does not meet the Australian Standard, what strategies are being put in place by the school to ensure sun safety?
- When undertaking a uniform review, schools are encouraged to consider uniform suppliers using the School uniform [Standing Offer Arrangement](#) (available to DoE employees only).
- If the wearing of hats during certain sports poses a risk to students' safety, describe alternative solutions to keep students sun safe.
- Are there any reasons a student may not be able to wear sun safe clothing or use sunscreen? Consider the student's medical, environmental, cultural, religious or other identified needs.
  - If yes, discuss with parents/carers the sun safety measures to be implemented to meet their needs, and document these alternatives in general terms in the policy (without identifying individual students).

- How will the school promote the wearing of swim shirts as a life-long habit?
- What strategies will be used if a student forgets their swim shirt?
- What sun safe strategies will staff follow when on playground duty and/or when they are in the sun?
- Will the school request that parents/carers and school volunteers model sun safe practices while participating in school activities?
- Will students have the option of wearing [sunglasses](#)?
  - If so, describe in the policy how the considerations below will be addressed.

### ***Students wearing sunglasses at school***

Individual schools may consider the wearing of sunglasses as part of their sun safety policy. A trial may help to determine if this is a feasible strategy for the school community.

In the policy, the school community may wish to consider:

- Sunglasses should be wrap-around and meet the Australian/New Zealand Standard *AS/NZS 1067.1:2016 Eye and face protection - sunglasses and fashion spectacles requirements*.

Wearing sunglasses that meet the Standard's requirements for effective sunglasses ensures the eyes have adequate protection against UVR damage. Refer to <https://www.sunsmart.com.au/downloads/resources/info-sheets/sunglasses-info-sheet.pdf>.

- The age of students and their capacity to be responsible for their sunglasses.
- Student safety during play and damage to glasses during play.
- Affordability.
- Lost property and theft.

### ***For consideration:***

- Do students have access to adequate shade in the school, for example, permanent and temporary shade structures?
- How does the school flexibly plan activities with the aim of reducing time spent exposed to UVR as far as practicable?
- Are there opportunities for a planned shade development project? What [shade design](#) elements could be associated with that?
- Are temporary shade structures available for student use at outdoor events?
- What sun safe measures will be put in place when students are timetabled to be in the sun?

- Will permanent shade design be included in major school infrastructure project planning (where applicable)?
  - For more information regarding the department's design standards for shade structure in schools, contact your school [Regional Infrastructure Manager](#).
- Will the P&C consider shade provision for P&C events?

### **(iii) Education**

#### ***For consideration:***

- How will the school promote sun safety to students?
- Which teaching/learning resources will be used for sun safe educational programs?
- How will sun safe practices be taught incidentally?
- How will the school regularly promote student sun safety to parents/carers?
- How will the school promote sun safety to staff?
- How will staff professional development occur about sun safety?

#### ***Selecting, developing or reviewing educational programs***

Programs should:

- be developmentally appropriate and sequential across all year levels
- develop knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to make informed choices around sun safety (connected to the range of health issues where possible)
- be aligned to the Australian Curriculum.

Appropriate resources to complement education programs should:

- be developmentally appropriate and selected to complement comprehensive curriculum programs
- be relevant to students' lives
- not exaggerate or misrepresent dangers, that is, not use 'scare tactics'.

## (iv) Sunscreen provision

### *For consideration:*

- How can the school help to normalise sunscreen application, that is, make it a routine behaviour?
- Where will the school's sunscreen be located for student access?
- At outdoor events, could sunscreen stations be set up with sun safe monitors? Refer to <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/staying-healthy/environmental/sun/how#sunscreen>.
- At all-day outdoor events, could a 'sunscreen time' be timetabled every two hours, where everyone reapplies their own sunscreen?
- How will the school encourage parents/carers to notify them if their child is allergic to a particular type of sunscreen?
- What options are available for parents/carers if they don't wish their child to use the school's sunscreen? Could parents/carers provide personal sunscreen for their children? **Note:** This would not replace the school's requirement to make sunscreen available to all students.

## (v) Modelling sun safe behaviours

### *For consideration:*

- Are there barriers to staff and/or other adults modelling sun safe behaviours? How will these be addressed?
- Will sun safe education for adults be provided?

## (vi) Cost considerations

### *For consideration:*

- How will the school fund the provision of sunscreen to students year-round?
- Will there be a need to recover costs in line with the [Requests for Voluntary Financial Contributions procedure](#)?