

Sun Smart Policy



Publication Date	October 2021
Review Date	01 December 2022
Related Department for Education policies, procedures, guidelines, standards, frameworks	Department of Education Sun Smart guidelines
Related Riverbanks College B-12 policies, procedures, standards	Inclement Weather policy
Responsibility	School Leadership and Governing Council

Rationale

Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world with 2 out of every 3 people developing some form of skin cancer before they are 70.

Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun.

Sun exposure in the first 10 years of life determines, to a substantial degree, the likelihood of skin cancer developing later in life.

Cancer Council SA advises people to protect their skin at times when the ultraviolet (UV) radiation level is 3 and above – this is when it is strong enough to cause damage to unprotected skin.

Our sun protection policy will be in effect for school terms 1, 3 and 4 and when advised by staff during term 2. Students should always have their hat with them whilst attending school.

Purpose:

- Ensure that all members of our school, including our out of school hours care (OSHC) and vacation care programs, are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful rays of the sun.
- Encourage the entire school community to understand the reasons behind sun protection measures.
- Work towards a safe school environment that provides shade for students, staff, and the school community at appropriate times.
- Assist students to be responsible for their own sun protection.

Strategies

It is an expectation that all staff, students, and parents of Riverbanks College abide by the following sun protection strategies:

1. Hats

All students are required to wear the Riverbanks College bucket hat that protects their face, neck, and ears, whenever they are outside. Baseball or peak caps are not acceptable.

2. Clothing

Sun protective clothing is included in the school uniform/dress code and sports uniform. Our 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.

3. Sunscreen

- Students should apply sunscreen before leaving home in the morning.
- Sunscreen is applied before going outdoors.

- Students can provide their own SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen and/or the school will supply SPF 50 broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for staff and students use in each building. If your child has any allergies to sunscreen products, please inform the school.
- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (reminder notices, sunscreen monitors and sunscreen buddies).

4. Shade

- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all other outdoor activities.
- 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 in late term 1 or during term 2 will occur earlier in the day where practical.
- Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
- Students who do not have appropriate hats or clothing are asked to play in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.

5. Staff WHS and role modelling:

Staff will:

- wear sun protective hats when outside
- seek shade whenever possible.

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

6. Curriculum

- Programs on skin cancer prevention are included in the curriculum for all year levels.
- Sun smart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole-school community through newsletters, school homepage, parent meetings, staff meetings, school assemblies, student information packs, student, and teacher activities.