



Sun Safety Policy

At Gumdale State School we prioritise the health and wellbeing of all staff and students.

We recognise that year-round sun protection is important given that research shows high ultraviolet radiation (UVR) exposure in childhood and adolescence significantly increases the risk of developing melanoma.

Our school aims to use best practice. We explicitly teach our students about being sun safe so that they can to develop important, life-long, healthy habits. Additionally, we recognise the role staff play to model sun safety practices for students. We actively plan for the development of shaded areas where students can learn and play.

In implementing this sun safety policy, our school and community recognise that:



- the policy applies to all school and school-related activities and events;
- the strategies are to be implemented during the whole school day and year-round; and
- a combination of sun safe strategies are more effective than a single approach.

Date of Commencement:	6/10/2021
Date of Review:	6/10/2022

ELEMENT	STRATEGIES
Clothing requirements and considerations	<p>Students are required to wear protective clothing, including appropriate hats, when outdoors during the school day and during school-related activities (e.g. excursions/camps) to reduce students' exposure to the sun, include the following strategies:</p> <p>Hats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students are required to wear appropriate hats when outdoors. The only exceptions are: when playing sport a hat reduces visibility or interferes with activity skills and therefore poses a risk to students' safety; or when wearing a hat is not possible because other headwear is required to be worn for religious or safety reasons. Under these circumstances, students may remove their hats for the duration of the activity.• Shady school hats are required as part of our school uniform. Parents are informed of the importance of students wearing hats.• Staff frequently remind students to wear hats during lunch breaks, and to and from outdoor activities.• Students who do not have hats are directed to play in the shade or an area protected from the sun.• Spare school hats are available for students to borrow if they forget their hat so that they can participate in outdoor PE lessons. <p>Swim shirts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students are required to wear swim shirts/rash vests during all water-based activities occurring at outdoor venues, except during their race/s at competitions and carnivals.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The wearing of sun shirts is heavily promoted when parents receive information about the school's sailing and swimming programs. • The school provides sun shirts to students at financial disadvantaged as part of water activity equipment kits.
Shade provision and use	<p>Our school maximises the use of available shade for outdoor activities through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rostering sports and break play space activities during the week between the hall, library and the oval. • Temporary shade structures are used as necessary for outdoor events e.g. Under 8s Day, Sports Day. • Where possible special events are held in the school hall or indoors. • The provision of shaded areas during play time is ensured during the allocation of designated play areas to year levels. • The retention of large shade trees has been a focus in the planning of new outdoor learning areas. • Extension and provision of new permanent shade structure was included in the planning of the P-2 Outdoor Learning Area and will be included in the development planning of new areas for staff, community and student use.
Education	<p>Our school provides educational programs on sun safety and preventative measures through the following strategies:</p> <p>Curriculum, teaching and learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sun safety is formally taught as part of the implementation of the Australian Curriculum through Health and Physical Education • Staff include the risk of exposure to UVR in their curriculum activity risk assessments for outdoor activities, which includes ensuring that adequate shade is available for outdoor activities where possible e.g. using temporary shade structures. <p>Incidental teaching and promoting sun safe behaviours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incidental teaching of personal sun safety strategies occurs in all year levels as part of the school routine on a regular basis e.g. through reminders to students to wear hats and apply sunscreen. <p>Staff professional development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff are informed about the school's sun safety policy and its requirements on induction.
Sunscreen provision	<p>Our school recognises the importance of sunscreen use as a sun safe measure and implements the following strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school provides SPF 30 or higher broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen for student and staff use. • Parents/carers are encouraged through social media and newsletter items to have their children apply sunscreen before school. • Parents/carers are encouraged to provide sunscreen for their child if they don't wish their child to use the school's sunscreen. • Parents are informed that staff can provide scaffolding for students who require support to put on sunscreen. • PE staff have sunscreen available for students during outdoor lessons.

Modelling sun safe behaviours	<p>Our school promotes the importance of parents/carers, teachers, ancillary staff, volunteers and other adult supervisors as role models for students using the following strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff and P&C members are encouraged to consider the use of shade, sun safe hats and clothing, sunglasses and sunscreen when doing their duties, running outside activities, and when on excursions/camps. • Parents/carers are encouraged to have their children apply sunscreen before they come to school, and to provide personal sunscreen for their children to use at school. • Staff who work outdoors for extended periods are provided with collared shirts.
Cost considerations	<p>The Department provides funding for sun safety using the following strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school purchases sunscreen for staff and student use.
Additional strategies	<p>Other strategies our school uses to be sun safe include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunscreen stations are set up at sports days and swimming carnivals.

Endorsed by:	Janet McBeth, School Council Chair	Signature: 	Date: 21 October 2021
Approved by:	Amanda Zoppi, Deputy Principal	Signature: 	Date: 21 October 2021